

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



story: ISAO MIURA
art: KOTARO YAMADA



The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶 9
ブラックスミス



Volume 9

*Art by
Kotaro Yamada*

*Story by
Isao Miura*

*Character Design by
Luna*



Luke Ainsworth

A proficient swordsman who uses an unusual blade called a "katana." Pessimistic and world-weary, he runs his own smithy.



Cecily Campbell

A young lady knight who is part of the Knight Guard, charged with defending the Independent Trade City of Housman. Ex-nobility, she has a strong sense of justice.



Aria

The "Demon Blade" of wind. A demon "born" at the end of the Valbanill War, she normally walks about as a human woman. However, she can turn into a rapier at will.



Lisa

The assistant who lives and works at Luke's smithy. Innocent and carefree, she loves talking with everyone. She says she is only three years old.

Other Characters



Ewain Benjamin

An archaeologist from the Militant Nation, he and Luke went to Blair Volcano, where they got lost. He is fascinated with Aria.



Hilda

An assassin from the former Crowd Powers, she was once rescued by Cecily and now feels a debt of gratitude to her.



Horatio Disraeli

An elite in the Imperial Crowd Power Army, he wields the Demon Blade Francesca.



Nameless

A Demon Blade owned by the Imperial Crowd Power. She tells Aria the secret to transforming into a sword one last time.

あらすじ *Story*

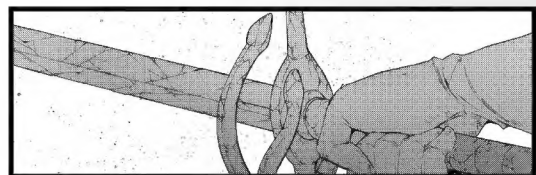
Empire
(Imperial Territory)

聖剣の刀鍛冶 *The Sacred Blacksmith*



THIS ONE STRIKE...

However, before Cecily could run to Luke's rescue, she first had to escape from the clutches of the Imperial Crowd Powers--which she managed to do, thanks only to Aria's powerful last blow.



Learning that Luke had not only sacrificed years off of his life, but his sight as well, Cecily hijacked a city-wide announcement to declare her love and propose to him. Knocked for a loop by her sheer blunt straight-forwardness, Luke had no choice but to answer...



NOT AS MUCH AS I LOVE YOU.



Decades ago, a great war raged across the continent. Called the "Valbanill War," it saw the widespread use of powerful Demon Pacts. Forty-four years later, a young lady knight named Cecily Campbell meets a mysterious blacksmith named Luke Ainsworth and asks him to forge for her a sword.

Out of nowhere, an earthquake shook the Independent Trade City of Housman. Realizing that the tremor was a sign of Valbanill's impending awakening, Luke rushed off to Blair Volcano to view the original Sacred Blade, in the hope that it would help him speed up the forging of a new Sacred Blade.



Accompanied by the archaeologist Ewain, Luke pressed on into the depths of Blair Volcano. Once there, he discovered Cecily's grandfather, Campbell, transformed into a Demon Blade through his duty as the "Sacred Blade's Sheath." However, their presence did not go unnoticed by Valbanill. The monster's powerful attacks left both Luke and Ewain on the verge of death.

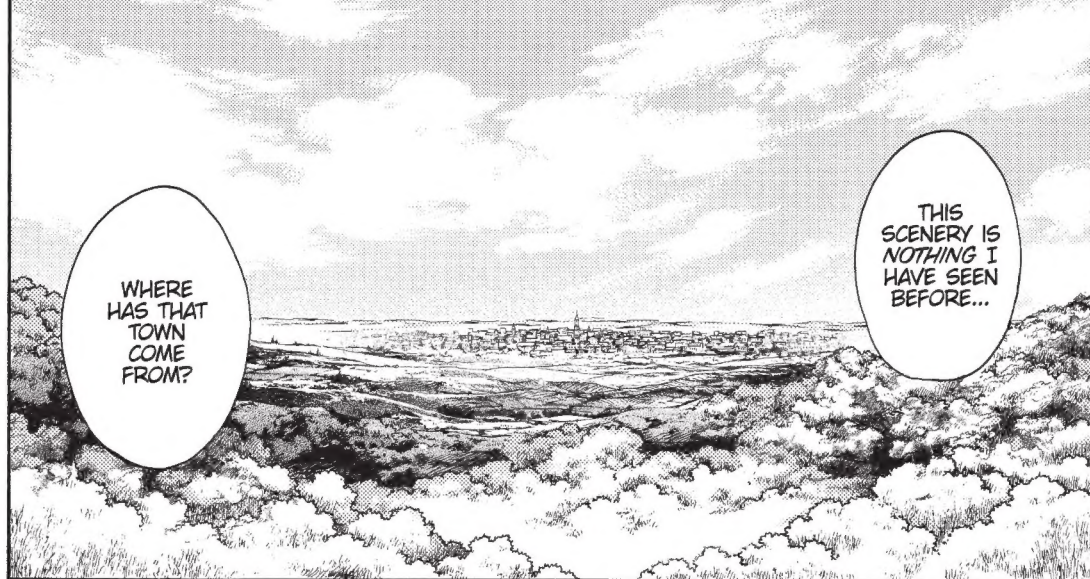


Fortunately, Cecily and the others arrived in the nick of time to save the men from certain doom. But before they departed, Luke and Lisa forged a demon katana and, with Cecily's help, they temporarily reinforced the seal on Valbanill.



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 ブ ラ ツ ク ス 鍛 ミ 冶 ス



WHERE
HAS THAT
TOWN
COME
FROM?

THIS
SCENERY IS
NOTHING I
HAVE SEEN
BEFORE...



SHE LAY
TRAPPED
IN
DARKNESS,
UNABLE
TO MOVE.

FOR
COUNT-
LESS
CENTU-
RIES...



IT SEEMS
ONLY THIS
MOUNTAIN
HASN'T
CHANGED.



BUT SHE DID
REMEMBER
WHAT
HUMANITY
HAD LAST
CALLED
HER--

IT HAD
BEEN SO
LONG,
SHE EVEN
FORGOT
HER OWN
NAME.



Chapter

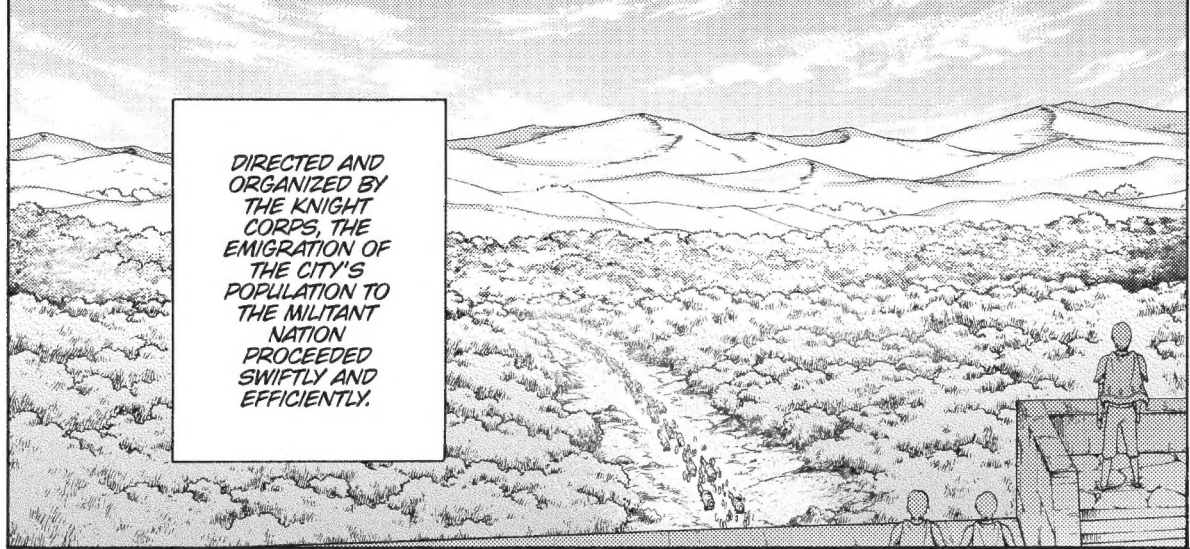
45

Old Sword

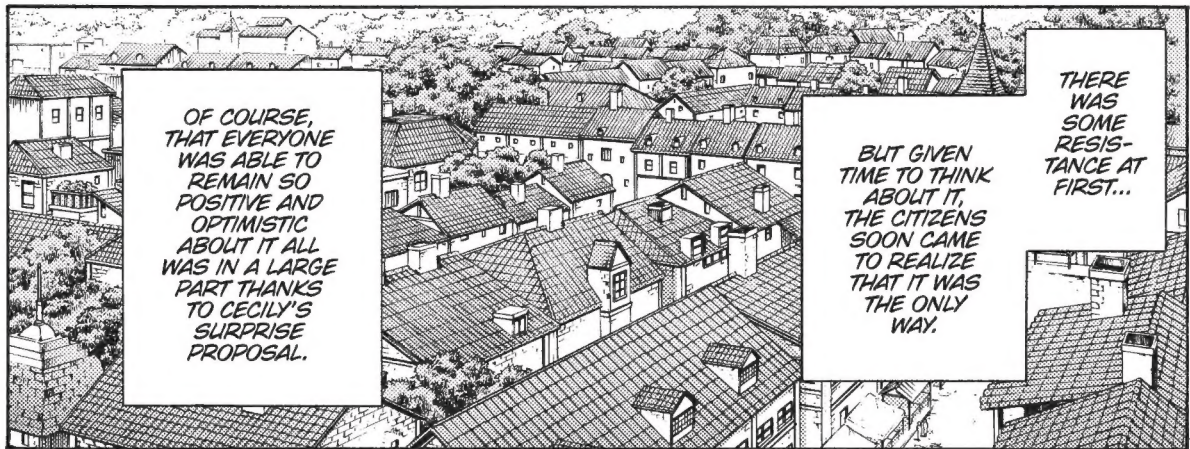
(Part 1)

**"THE
SACRED
BLADE"!!**





DIRECTED AND ORGANIZED BY THE KNIGHT CORPS, THE EMIGRATION OF THE CITY'S POPULATION TO THE MILITANT NATION PROCEEDED SWIFTLY AND EFFICIENTLY.



OF COURSE, THAT EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO REMAIN SO POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IT ALL WAS IN A LARGE PART THANKS TO CECILY'S SURPRISE PROPOSAL.

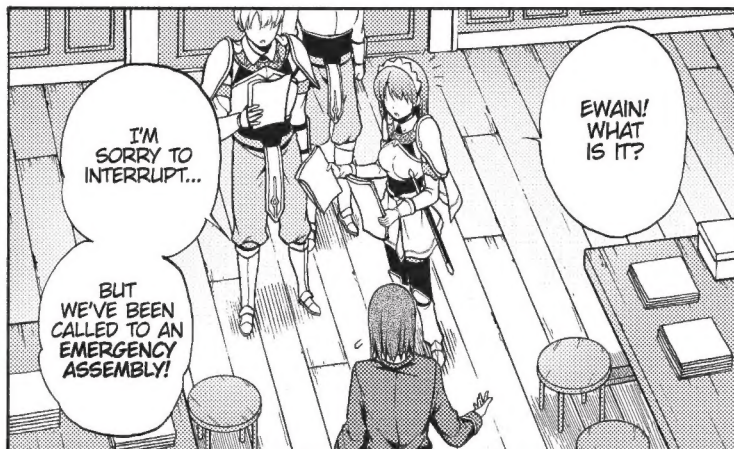
BUT GIVEN TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT, THE CITIZENS SOON CAME TO REALIZE THAT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY.

THERE WAS SOME RESISTANCE AT FIRST...



DASH

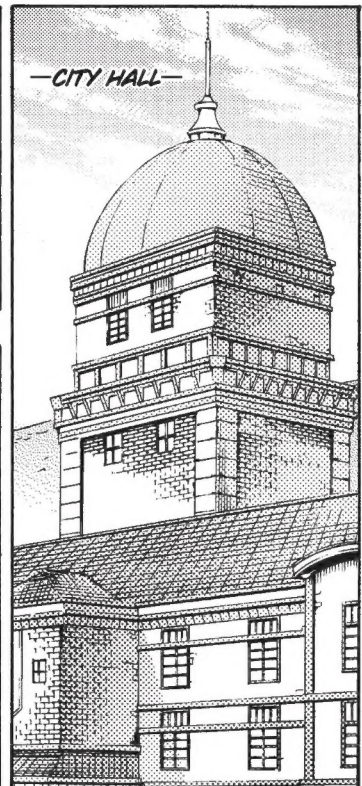
MISS CECILY!



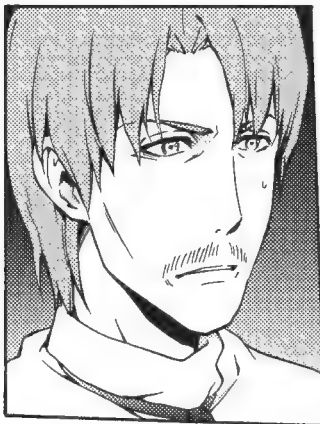
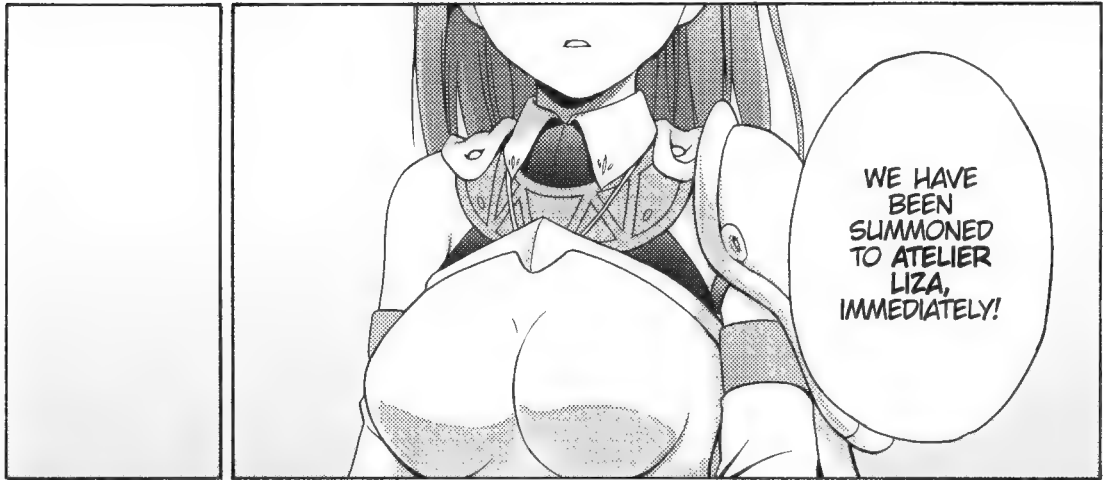
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT...

BUT WE'VE BEEN CALLED TO AN EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY!

EWAIN! WHAT IS IT?



—CITY HALL—

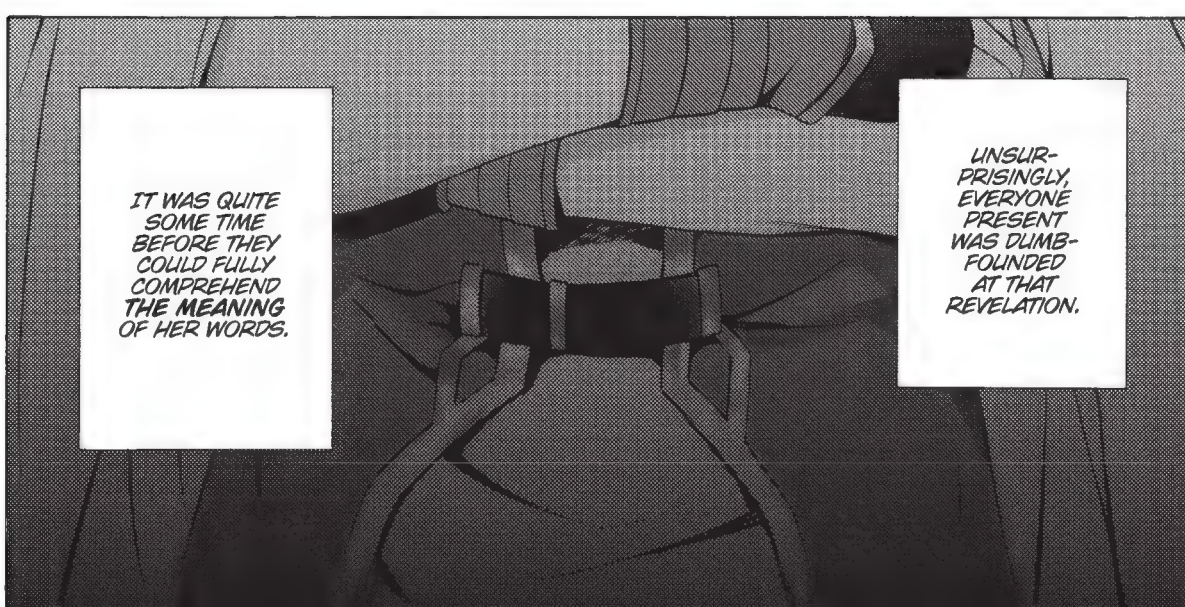






DUE TO
MY FAILING
STRENGTH,
I HAVE LOST
THE POWER
TO HOLD
THE SEAL ON
THE BEAST.
THUS, I HAVE
RETURNED
TO CIVILIZA-
TION.

I AM
THE ONE
KNOWN
AS THE
SACRED
BLADE.



IT WAS QUITE
SOME TIME
BEFORE THEY
COULD FULLY
COMPREHEND
THE MEANING
OF HER WORDS.

UNSUR-
PRISINGLY,
EVERYONE
PRESENT
WAS DUMB-
FOUNDED
AT THAT
REVELATION.

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聖剣の刀鍛冶



HOWEVER,
THANKS
TO YOUR
RECENT
ACTIONS...



THE BEAST IS
BEING HELD
WITHOUT ANY
FURTHER
NEED OF MY
POWER.



ORIGI-
NALLY...

I WAS
MEANT TO
HOLD THE
SEAL ON
THE BEAST
UNTIL MY
BLADE
CRUMBLLED
TO RUST.

Chapter 46 **Old Sword** (Part 2)



THAT
SUCH A
THING IS
POSSIBLE
AT ALL
IS A
MIRACLE.



HOWEVER,
IT WAS
ENOUGH
TO FREE
ME FROM
MY DUTY.

OF COURSE,
IT REMAINS A
SHORT-LIVED
MEASURE.
THE BEAST
WILL SOON
AWAKEN.



AND I
UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU
HAVE YET TO
COMPLETE A
NEW SACRED
BLADE.



I HAVE
HEARD THE
WORDS
OF THIS
BLACK-
SMITH...



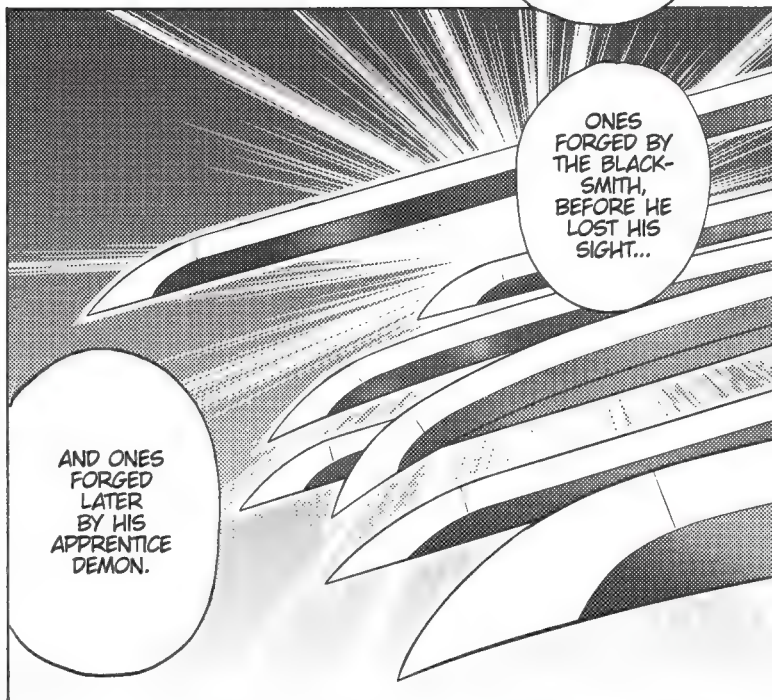
SHORTLY AFTER I ARRIVED, I HAD THE HONOR OF VIEWING SEVERAL OF THE PROTOTYPE BLADES.



BUT THE METHODS THEMSELVES ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE UTILIZED IN MY CREATION.

FOLDED STEEL... SHIHOUZUME... THE TERMS ARE DIFFERENT, YES...

IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE BLACKSMITH IS AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A STRAIGHT VERSUS CURVED BLADE.



ONES FORGED BY THE BLACKSMITH, BEFORE HE LOST HIS SIGHT...

AND ONES FORGED LATER BY HIS APPRENTICE DEMON.

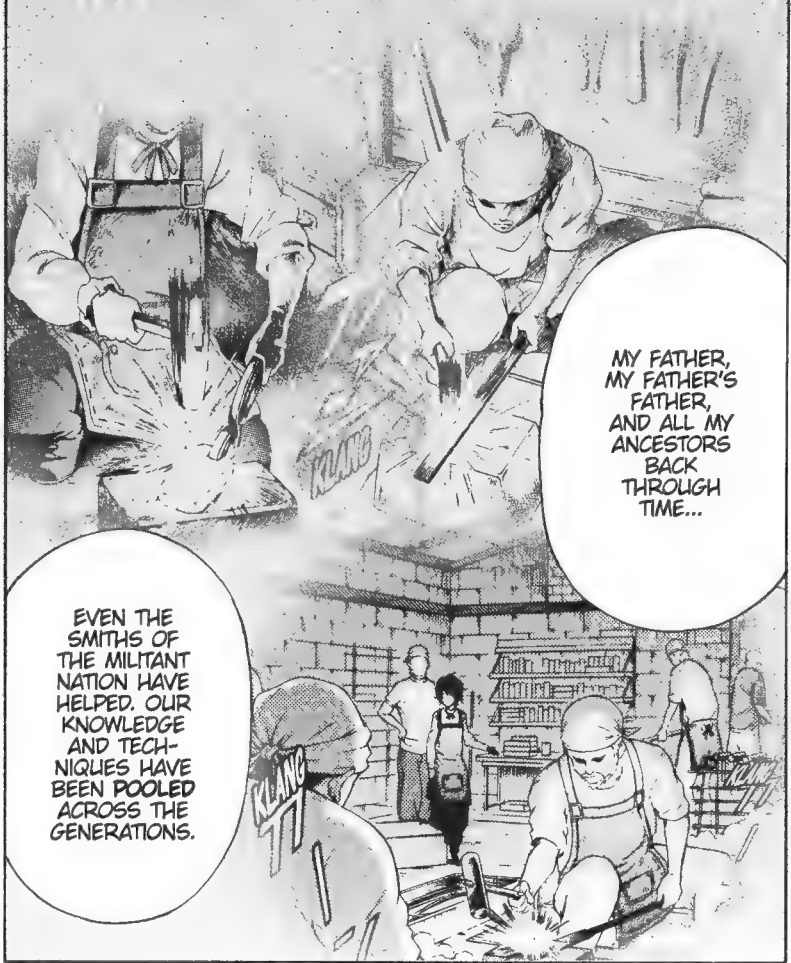


I DIDN'T MAKE IT THIS FAR ALL ON MY OWN, THOUGH.



WELL DONE, BLACKSMITH, ACQUIRING ALL THAT KNOWLEDGE SO QUICKLY.

ALL IN ALL, HE WANTS FOR NOTHING, IN TERMS OF SKILL OR TECHNIQUE.



MY FATHER,
MY FATHER'S
FATHER,
AND ALL MY
ANCESTORS
BACK
THROUGH
TIME...

EVEN THE
SMITHS OF
THE MILITANT
NATION HAVE
HELPED. OUR
KNOWLEDGE
AND TECH-
NIQUES HAVE
BEEN POOLED
ACROSS THE
GENERATIONS.



IT SEEMS
YOU ARE
NOT YET
AWARE OF THE
MATERIALS
REQUIRED.



HOW-
EVER...

DESPITE
ALL YOUR
EFFORTS, YOU
HAVE YET TO
SUCCESSFULLY
CREATE
ANOTHER
SACRED
BLADE.



CERTAIN
MATERIALS ARE
NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO
FORGE A TRUE
SACRED BLADE.



ALTHOUGH SOME
MATERIALS MAY
BE CHANGED,
THE FOLLOWING
THREE ITEMS
ARE ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL.



THERE
ARE
REQUIRED
MATERIALS
...?!

WHAT?!

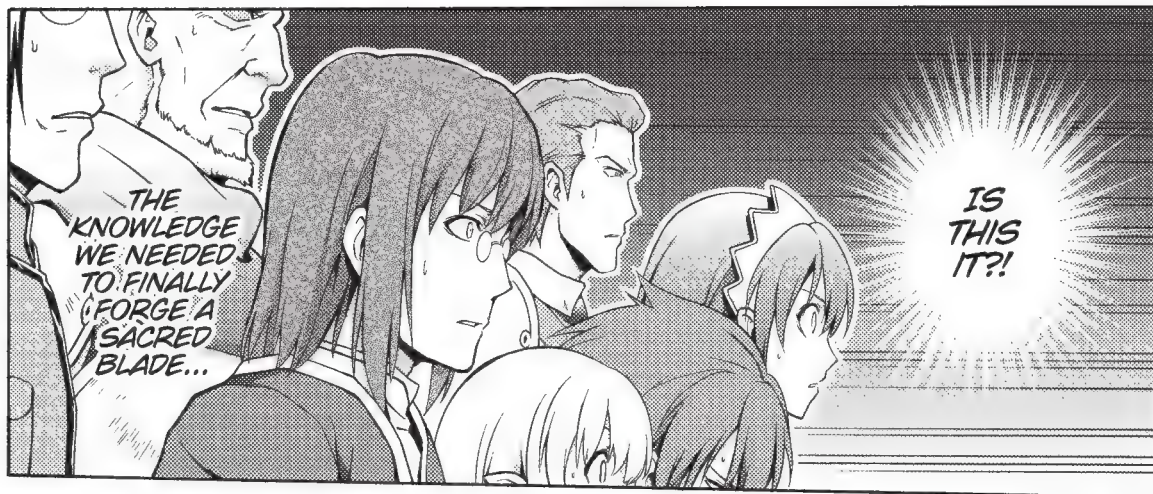


SECOND,
A DEMON
BLADE.

AND...



FIRST,
JEWEL
STEEL.





"STAR
METAL!"

LADY
BLADE!

THOSE
WERE
ARIA'S
LAST
WORDS!

IT'S WHAT
SHE SAID
COULD
REPAIR
HER!

DO YOU
KNOW
WHERE
STAR METAL
MIGHT BE
MINED?!



PLEASE,
LADY
BLADE!

IF YOU
KNOW
ANYTHING
AT ALL
ABOUT
WHERE
IT CAN BE
FOUND,
PLEASE
TELL US!

IF ONLY
WE COULD
FIND SOME,
THEN ARIA
COULD BE
FIXED...

AND WE
COULD
CREATE
A NEW
SACRED
BLADE!!



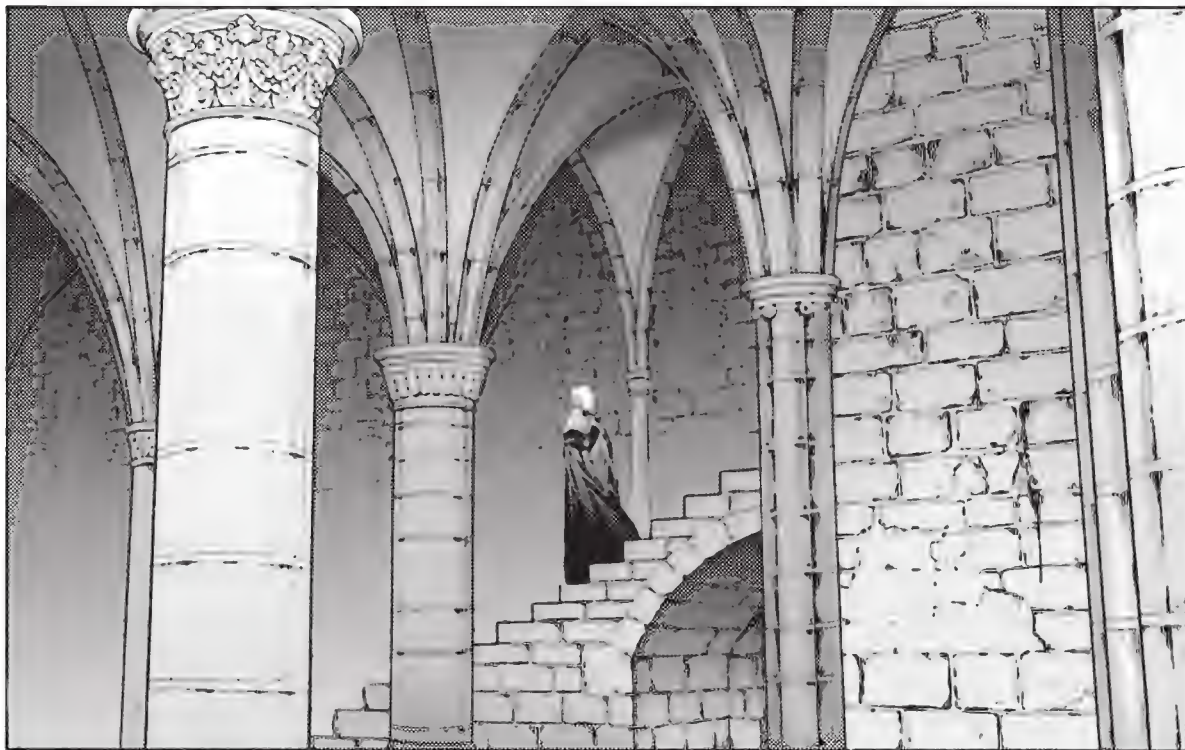
HELP
US!!

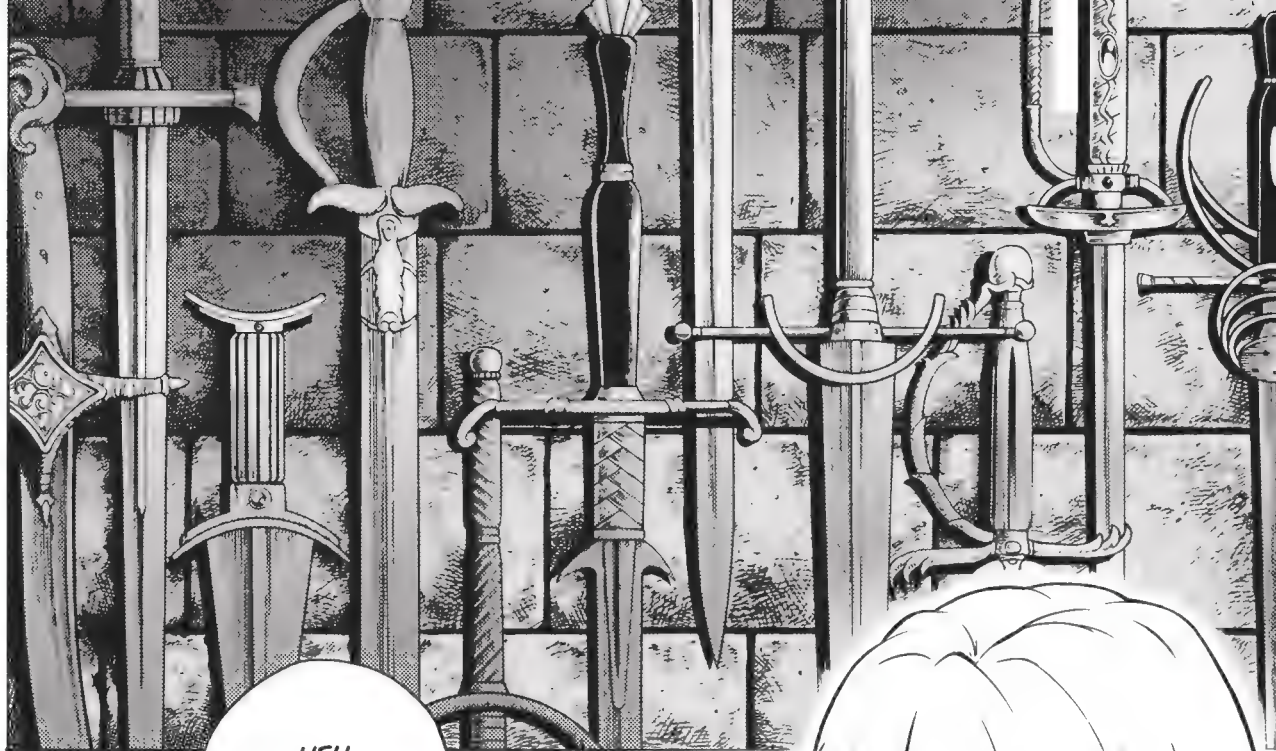
BESIDES...





—THE IMPERIAL
CROWD POWERS—





HEH.
YOU'VE
AMASSED
QUITE THE
COLLECTION.



YES.



THEY
ARE ALL
DEMON
BLADES.

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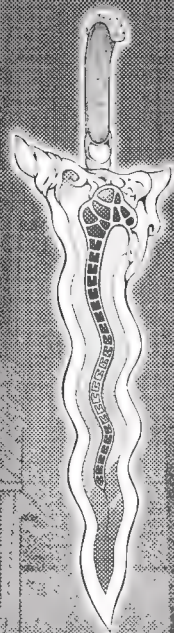
聖剣の刀鍛冶

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聖剣の刀鍛冶

SOME CAN
TRANSFORM
INTO HUMAN
SHAPE.
SOME
CANNOT.

BUT AS FOR
WHY I, OF
ALL OF THEM,
AM KNOWN
ONLY AS
"NAMELESS"...



THE
IMPERIAL
CROWD
POWERS HAS
A LARGE
AND VARIED
COLLECTION
OF DEMON
BLADES.

Chapter 47 Sacred Sword (Part 1)



...THAT IS
BECAUSE
I HAVE
NO SELF.

I WAS ONCE A
DEMON BLADE
INCAPABLE OF
TRANSFORMING
INTO A HUMAN.

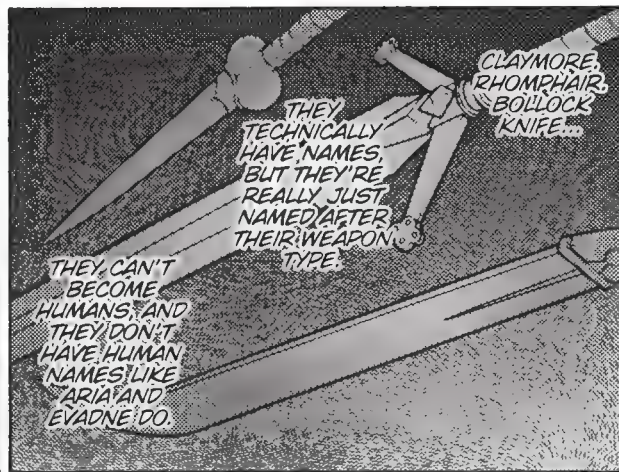


CONFIRMED.

ADDITIONALLY,
I HAVE
ALREADY
REACHED
THE END OF
MY LIFESPAN
ONCE.



SO,
YOU USED
TO BE
LIKE OUR
DEMON
BLADES?



THEY
TECHNICALLY
HAVE NAMES,
BUT THEY'RE
REALLY JUST
NAMED AFTER
THEIR WEAPON
TYPE.

CLAYMORE,
RHOMPHAIR,
BOLLOCK
KNIFE...

THEY CAN'T
BECOME
HUMANS, AND
THEY DON'T
HAVE HUMAN
NAMES LIKE
ARIA AND
EVADNE DO.



IT
COMES
TO US
FROM THE
HEAVENS...

AND
ACCORDINGLY,
IT HAS A POWER
THAT IS DIFFERENT
FROM SPIRIT
ESSENCE--
DIFFERENT FROM
ANYTHING
HUMANS KNOW.

WHO
I AM
NOW...

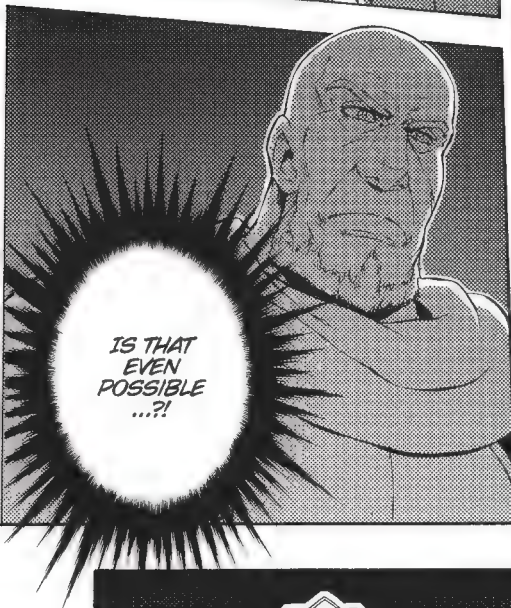


SHE
HAS...?

"STAR
METAL"
IS A VERY
UNIQUE
MINERAL.



SMELTING
A DEMON
BLADE
TOGETHER
WITH STAR
METAL...



IS THAT
EVEN
POSSIBLE
...?!



WAS
CREATED
WHEN THE
CRUMBLING
DEMON
BLADE I
USED TO
BE...

WAS
SMELTED
TOGETHER
WITH STAR
METAL.

REFORGED
INTO A
KRIS KNIFE,
I WAS
REBORN INTO
WHAT YOU
SEE BEFORE
YOU NOW.



AND
THEIR VAST
STORE OF
"MATERI-
ALS."

THE FORMER
EMPIRE HAS
LONG BEEN
EXPERIMENTING,
GIVEN THEIR
KNOWLEDGE...



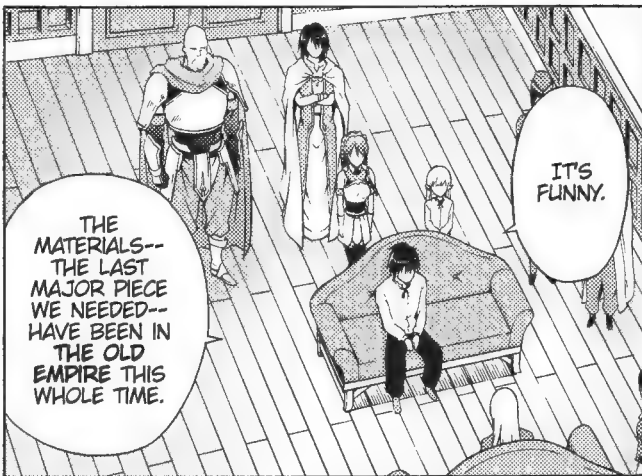
IT RESULTED
IN ME GAINING
A HUMAN
FORM,
BUT ONLY A
PARTIAL SELF.

MY FLUSION
WITH
STAR METAL
WAS JUST
ANOTHER ONE
OF THOSE
TESTS.



A SIMPLE
TOOL
WITH NO
WILL.

I AM
NAMELESS.
I AM A
DEMON BLADE
WITH NO
SOUL.



THE
MATERIALS--
THE LAST
MAJOR PIECE
WE NEEDED--
HAVE BEEN IN
THE OLD
EMPIRE THIS
WHOLE TIME.

IT'S
FUNNY.



HEH
...



WHAT
IS IT?



THEN IT MAKES
SENSE THAT THE
MATERIALS AND
THE KNOWLEDGE
NECESSARY TO
COMPLETE IT
WERE PASSED
DOWN IN THE
EMPIRE IN THE
EXACT SAME
WAY...

RIGHT?

IF BOTH THE
CITY AND THE
MILITANT NATION
PASSED DOWN THE
"TECHNIQUES" FOR
CREATING THE
SACRED BLADE--
EACH IN THEIR
OWN WAY--
ACROSS
GENERATIONS...

THEN THE
NEW SACRED
BLADE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
COMPLETED
YEARS AGO.

AND
DECIDED TO
COOPERATE
AND SHARE
WHAT
THEY HAD
INHERITED IN
THE FIRST
PLACE...

IF THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY,
THE MILITANT
NATION, AND
THE EMPIRE
HAD GOTTEN
TOGETHER...





IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT NAMELESS, WHOSE WIND POWER IS STRONG ENOUGH TO MOVE PEOPLE UP AND DOWN CLIFFS, WAS SENT ALONG WITH US.

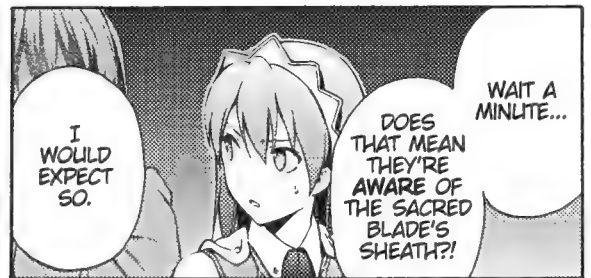
WE WERE TO EXPLORE BLAIR VOLCANO AND CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF THE DEMON BLADE THAT SUPPOSEDLY SLEPT AT ITS HEART.



OUR ORIGINAL MISSION WAS SIMPLE RECONNAISSANCE.



WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE SENT ALONG ON THE ORIGINAL MISSION TO STRENGTHEN THE SACRED BLADE'S SEAL ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.



I WOULD EXPECT SO.

DOES THAT MEAN THEY'RE AWARE OF THE SACRED BLADE'S SHEATH?!

WAIT A MINUTE...



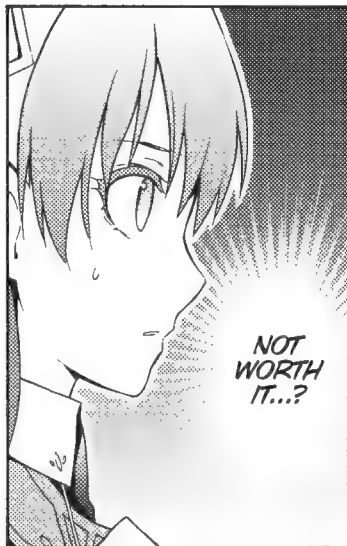
AFTER ALL, AUGUSTUS ARTHUR...



I MEAN, YOU HAVE STAR METAL WITHIN YOU. SHOULDN'T THE IMPERIAL CROWD POWERS BE SEARCHING FOR YOU BY NOW?

EVEN FOR SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS THAT, AREN'T YOU TOO VALUABLE?

SO YOU WERE SENT TO FIND THE SACRED BLADE'S SHEATH...

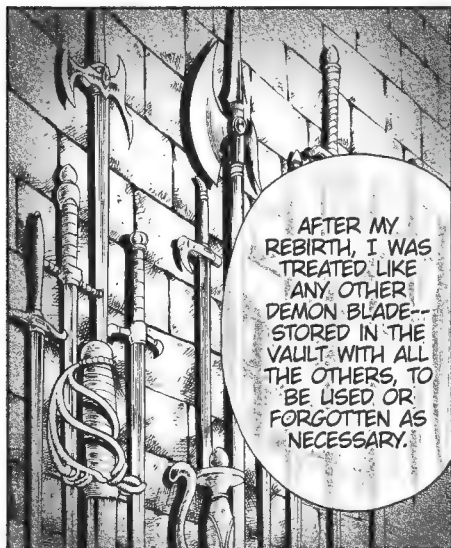


NOT
WORTH
IT...?

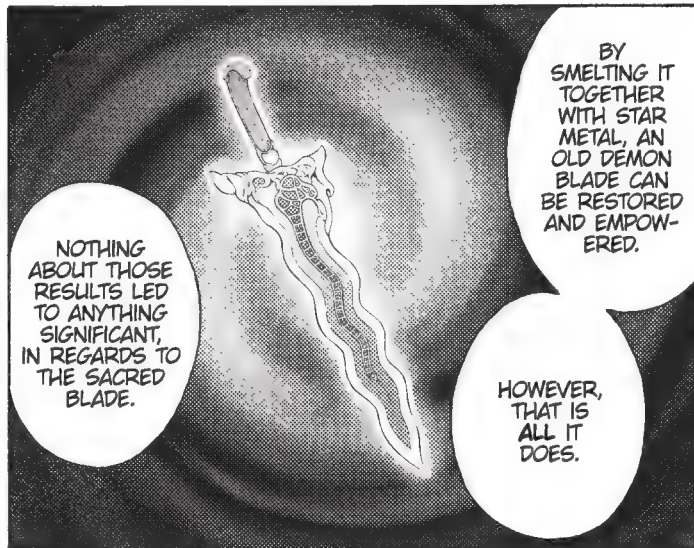


I TAKE
THAT TO
MEAN THAT
MY VALUE
TO THEM IS
NOT WORTH
SUCH AN
EFFORT.

BUT
THEY
ARE
NOT.



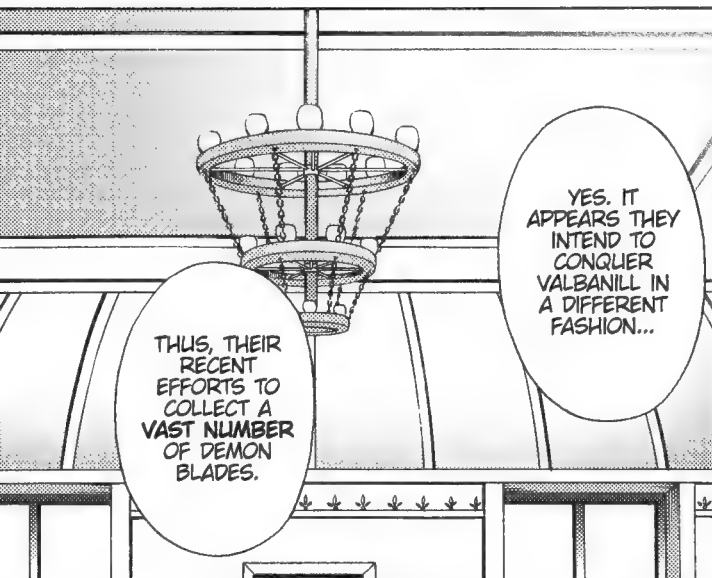
AFTER MY
REBIRTH, I WAS
TREATED LIKE
ANY OTHER
DEMON BLADE--
STORED IN THE
VAULT WITH ALL
THE OTHERS, TO
BE USED OR
FORGOTTEN AS
NECESSARY.



NOTHING
ABOUT THOSE
RESULTS LED
TO ANYTHING
SIGNIFICANT,
IN REGARDS TO
THE SACRED
BLADE.

BY
SMELTING IT
TOGETHER
WITH STAR
METAL, AN
OLD DEMON
BLADE CAN
BE RESTORED
AND EMPOW-
ERED.

HOWEVER,
THAT IS
ALL IT
DOES.

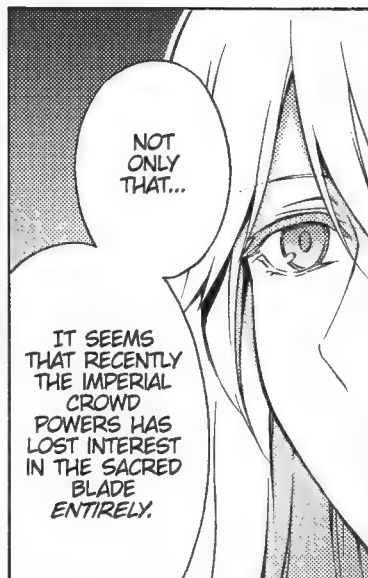


THUS, THEIR
RECENT
EFFORTS TO
COLLECT A
VAST NUMBER
OF DEMON
BLADES.

YES. IT
APPEARS THEY
INTEND TO
CONQUER
VALBANILL IN
A DIFFERENT
FASHION...



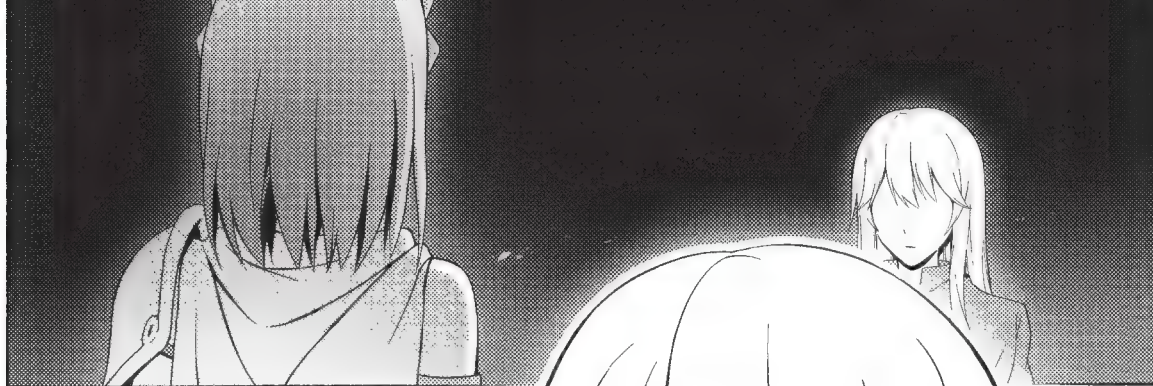
THEY
LOST
INTER-
EST...?



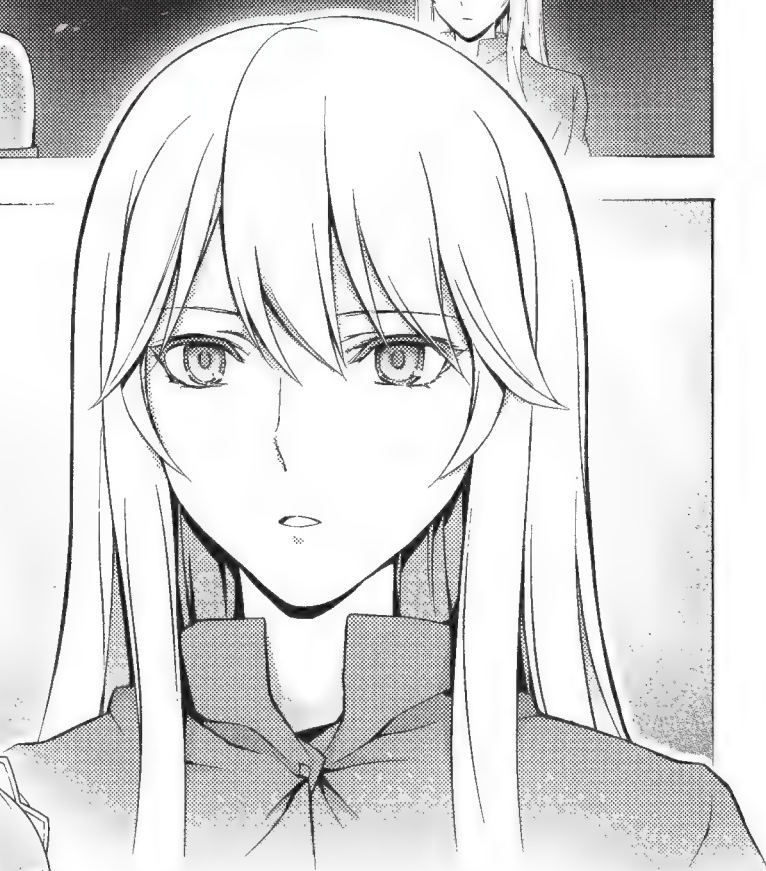
NOT
ONLY
THAT...

IT SEEMS
THAT RECENTLY
THE IMPERIAL
CROWD
POWERS HAS
LOST INTEREST
IN THE SACRED
BLADE
ENTIRELY.



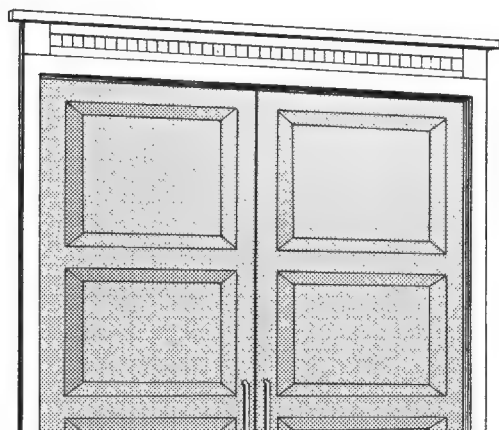


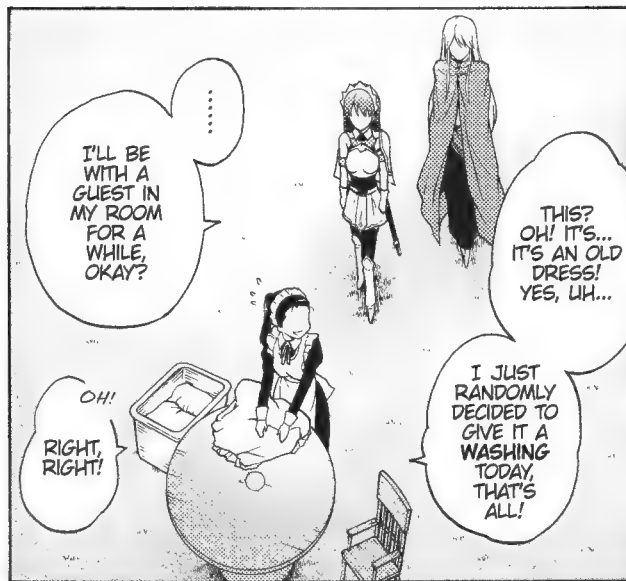
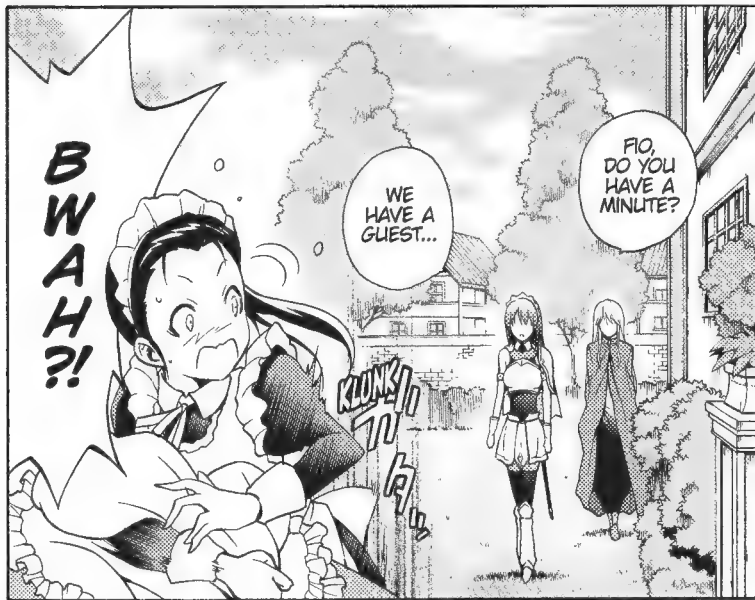
I WOULD
LIKE FOR THE
DEMON
BLADE ARIA
TO BE
INCLUDED AS
PART OF THE
MATERIALS.

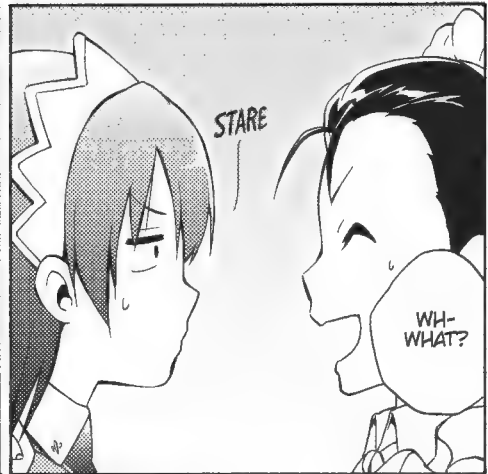


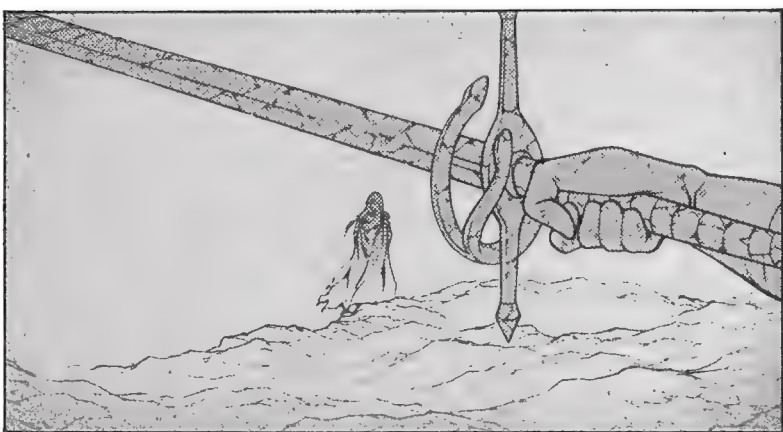
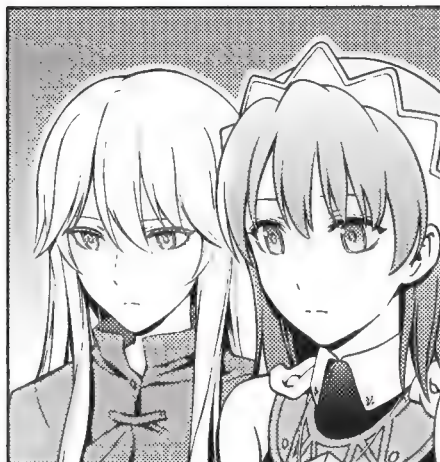
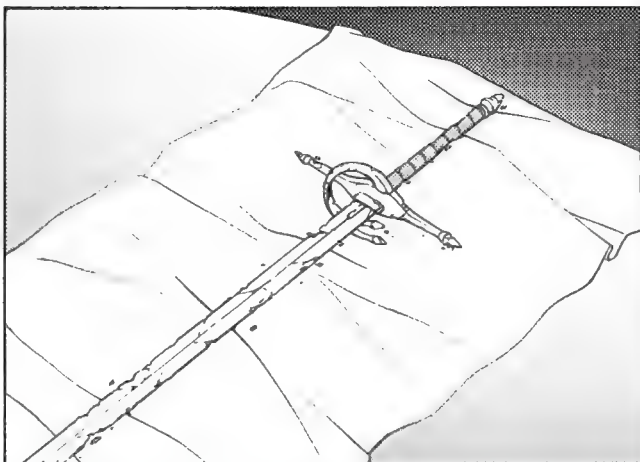
COULD
YOU
PLEASE
TAKE
ME...

TO
WHERE
SHE
RESTS?









THAT
DAY...

WHEN
ARIA USED
UP THE
LAST OF
HER
POWER...



I BELIEVE IT
IS BECAUSE
I MAY
HAVE SOME
FEELINGS OF
ADMIRATION
FOR ARIA.



WHY DID
YOU
COME TO
US?



SHE
EXPRESSED
RAGE AND
SADNESS,
JUST LIKE
A HUMAN.

AND IN THE
END, SHE
SACRIFICED
HER EXIST-
ENCE TO
SAVE
YOUR LIFE.



A MERE
EMPTY
WEAPON.

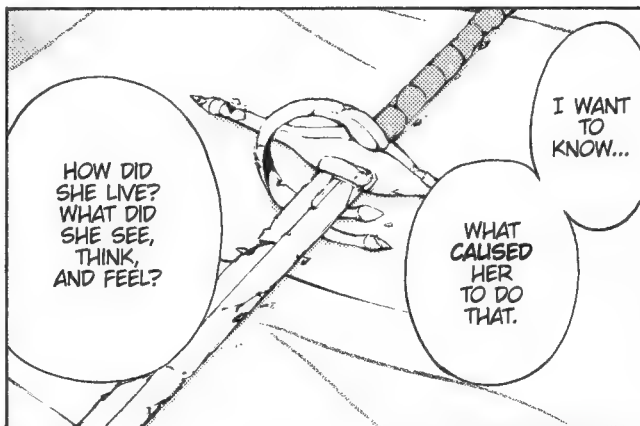
I AM A
SOULLESS
DEMON
BLADE...



TO ME,
ARIA'S
WORDS AND
DEEDS
SEEMED
VERY...
HUMAN.



AND
SO YOU
CAME
TO ME...



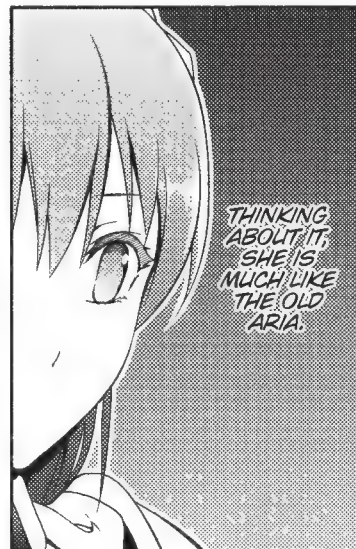
HOW DID
SHE LIVE?
WHAT DID
SHE SEE,
THINK,
AND FEEL?

I WANT
TO
KNOW...

WHAT
CAUSED
HER
TO DO
THAT.



THE ARIA
WHO WAS
CONVINCED
THAT SHE
WAS NOTHING
MORE THAN
A WEAPON
MEANT
TO KILL.



THINKING
ABOUT IT,
SHE IS
MUCH LIKE
THE OLD
ARIA.



I'LL
CONFIRM
THAT!



THAT
MEANS
YOU DO
HAVE A
SOUL...

YOU
THINK.
YOU
FEEL.
YOU
WANT.

THAT
ISN'T
TRUE,
YOU
KNOW.



AS SHE
GAVE TO ME,
NOW IT IS I
WHO MUST
GIVE BACK
TO HER.

IF I HAVE
A SOUL,
IT IS ONLY
BECAUSE
OF HER.





THEN I
SHALL
HAPPILY
PROVIDE
IT.

MY SOUL...
IS TELLING
ME THAT THIS
IS WHAT I
WISH TO DO.

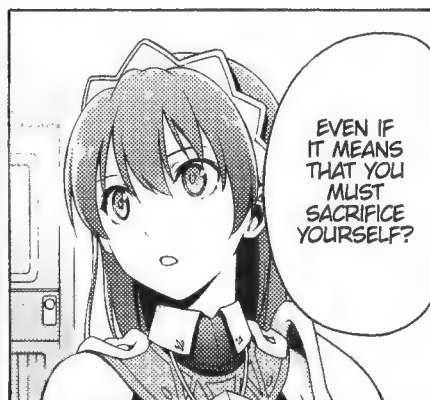
IF THE
STAR METAL
WITHIN ME
CAN BRING
HER BACK...



THANK
YOU...



I HAVE...
EXPECTATIONS
THAT BY
BECOMING ONE
WITH HER,
I CAN
EXPERIENCE
THE SAME
HONOR.



EVEN IF
IT MEANS
THAT YOU
MUST
SACRIFICE
YOURSELF?



ARIA TOOK
PRIDE AND
HONOR
IN THE
PRIVILEGE
OF BEING
YOUR
BLADE.

I HAVE
HARDLY
ENOUGH
VALUE
TO BE
CONSID-
ERED A
"SACRI-
FICE."



HUH?



HOW-
EVER...

THE
PROPERTIES
OF STAR
METAL ARE
STILL NOT
FULLY
UNDERSTOOD.

THERE IS
NO TELLING
WHAT SORT OF
EFFECT IT WILL
HAVE ON HER
PERSONALITY.



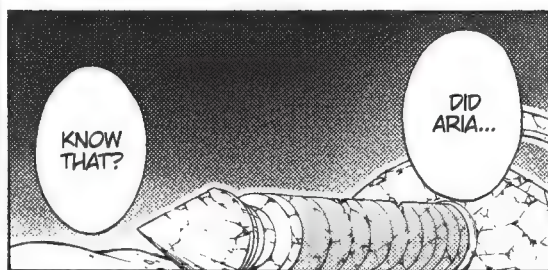
CON-
FIRMED.

I
EXPLAINED
IT TO
HER.

...

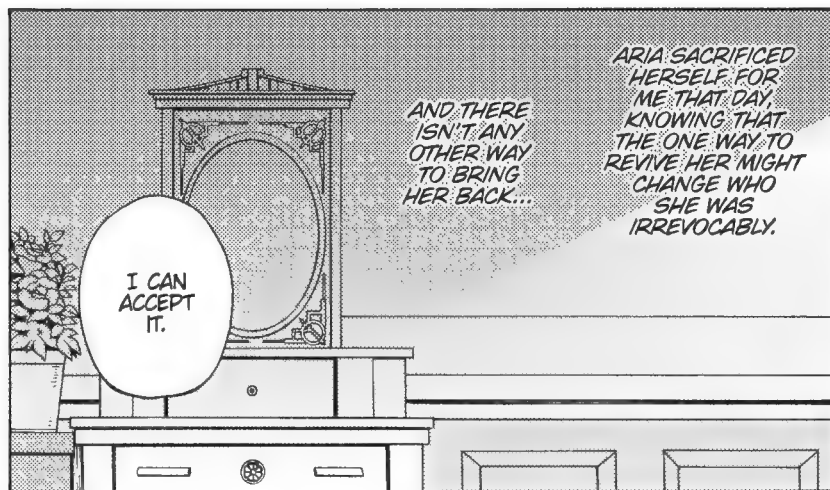


IT COULD
AFFECT HER
PERSONALITY...?



KNOW
THAT?

DID
ARIA...



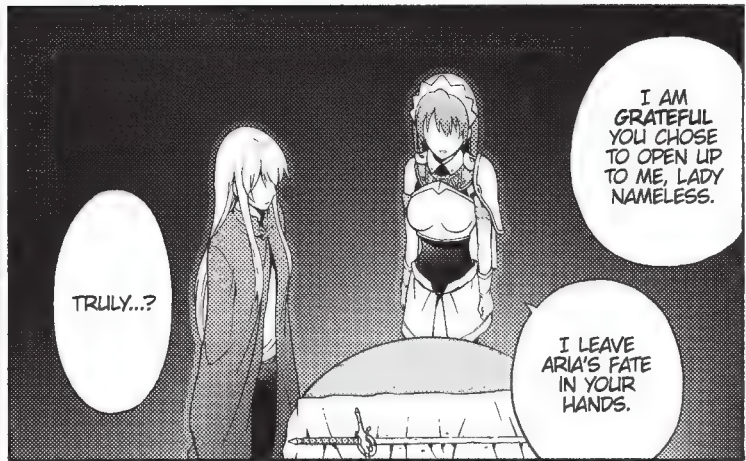
I CAN
ACCEPT
IT.

AND THERE
ISN'T ANY
OTHER WAY
TO BRING
HER BACK...

ARIA SACRIFICED
HERSELF FOR
ME THAT DAY.
KNOWING THAT
THE ONE WAY TO
REVIVE HER MIGHT
CHANGE WHO
SHE WAS
IRREVOCABLY.



IN
THAT
CASE...





I WILL
CONTINUE
TO DO SO,
ALONE IN THE
DEPTHS OF
BLAIR VOLCANO,
FOR CENTURIES
ON END.

IF THE
PREVIOUS
SACRED
BLADE IS
ANY
EXAMPLE...

IN OTHER
WORDS,
I WILL
RESEAL
VALBANILL.



WE WILL HAVE
TO SAY OUR
GOODBYES
ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY!

EVEN IF THE
STAR METAL
REVIVES
ARIA, AND
WE GET TO
SEE EACH
OTHER
AGAIN...

THAT'S
RIGHT!

SITTING
IN THE
DARKNESS
UNDER THE
VOLCANO
UNTIL SHE
RUSTS
AWAY.

AS THE
SACRED
BLADE,
HER DUTY
MEANS SHE
WOULD
BE LEFT
ALONE...

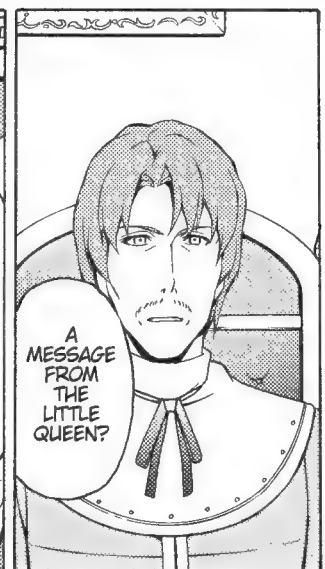
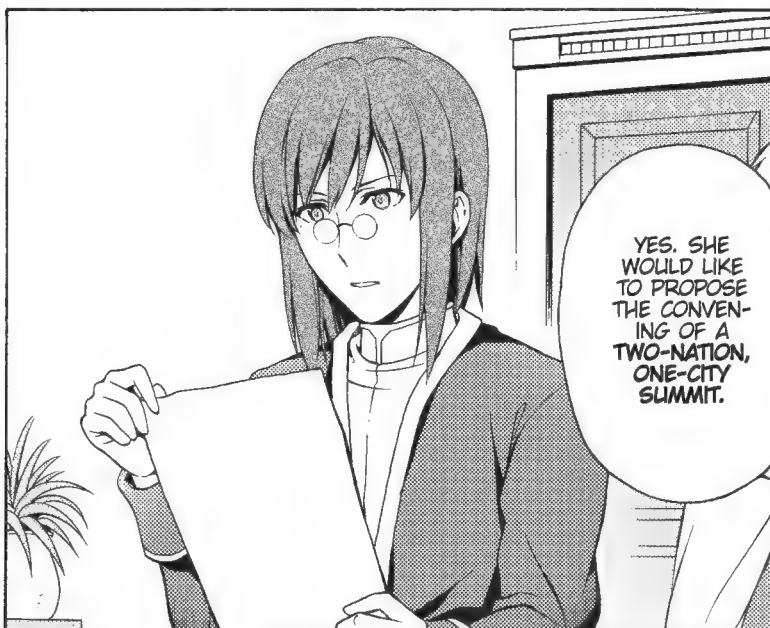
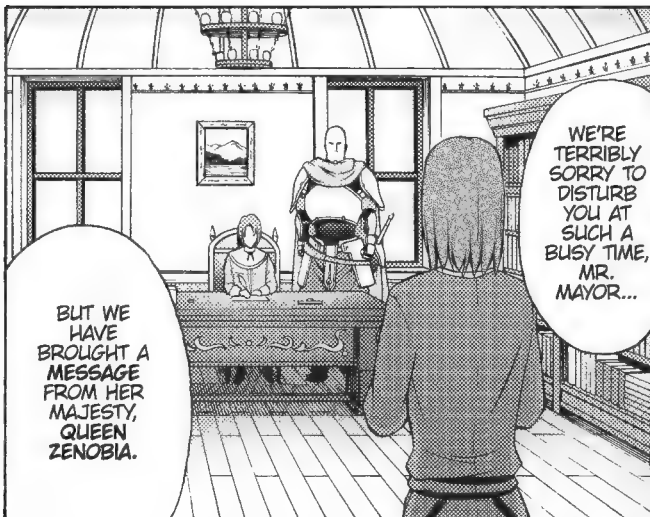
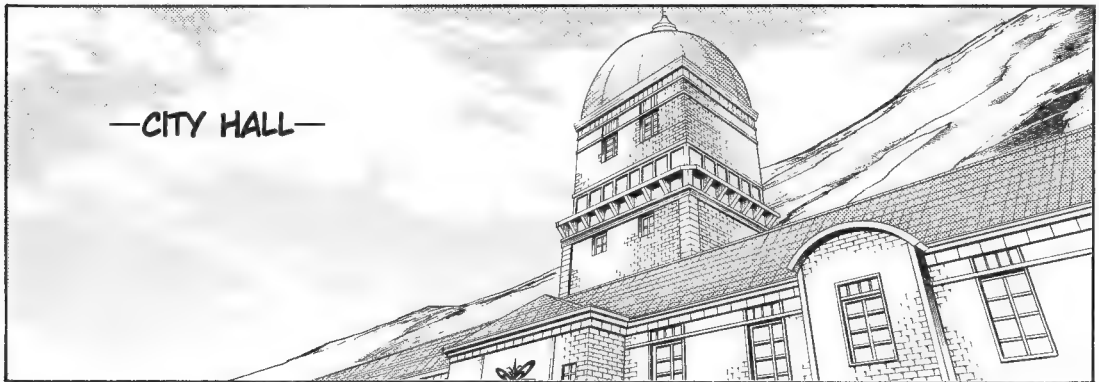


CECILY
CAMPBELL.



I WILL
ASK YOU
AGAIN.

ARE YOU
CAPABLE OF
FORCING THE
DUTY--AND THE
ULTIMATE FATE--
OF THE SACRED
BLADE ONTO
YOUR FRIEND
AND PARTNER?

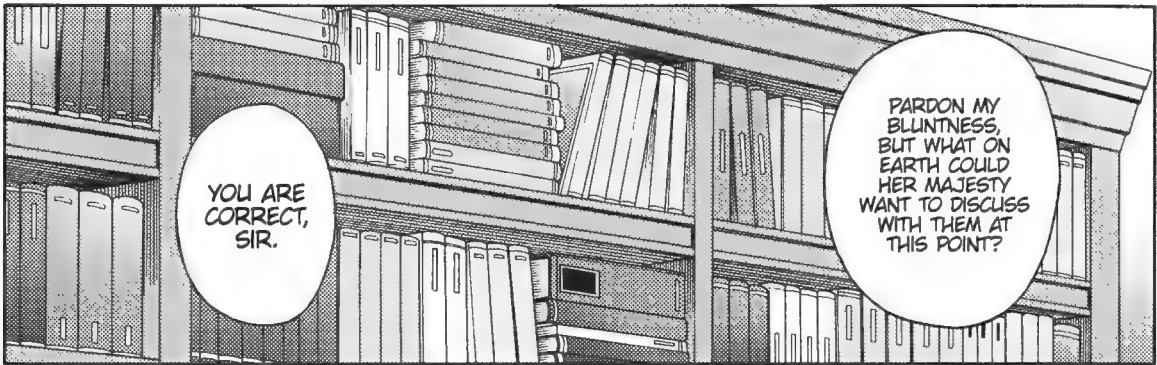
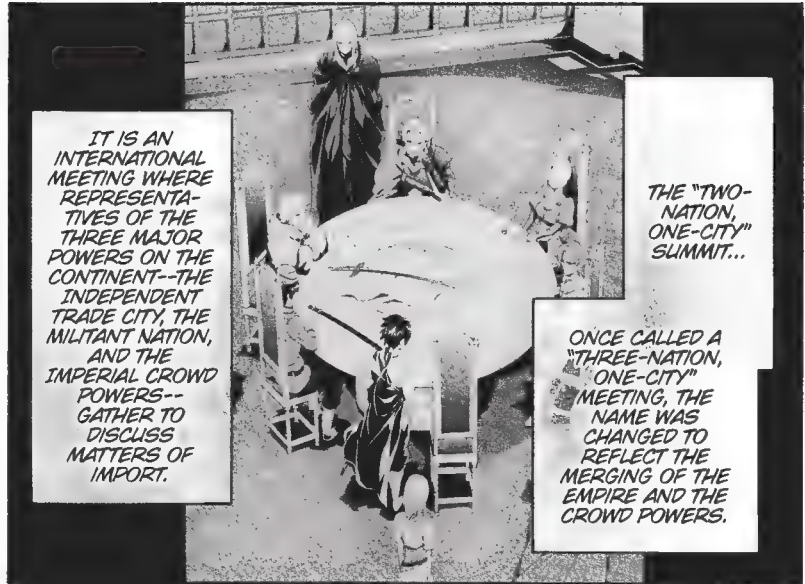




IT IS AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE MAJOR POWERS ON THE CONTINENT--THE INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY, THE MILITANT NATION, AND THE IMPERIAL CROWD POWERS--GATHER TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF IMPORT.

THE "TWO-NATION, ONE-CITY" SUMMIT...

ONCE CALLED A "THREE-NATION, ONE-CITY" MEETING, THE NAME WAS CHANGED TO REFLECT THE MERGING OF THE EMPIRE AND THE CROWD POWERS.



YOU ARE CORRECT, SIR.

PARDON MY BLUNTNESS, BUT WHAT ON EARTH COULD HER MAJESTY WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THEM AT THIS POINT?



A WHAT...?



HER MAJESTY DOES NOT WISH TO "DISCUSS" ANYTHING WITH THEM.

INSTEAD, SHE WISHES TO MAKE A DECLARATION OF WAR.

LO DOWN



HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ZENOBIA
BELIEVES IT IS
OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE THAT
WE MAKE SUCH
A STANCE CLEAR
FOR ALL TO SEE
BEFORE ANY
CLASH OF
ARMIES BEGINS.

WE WILL
NOT BE
COWED BY
THEIR
THREATS AND
POSTURING.

WE INSTEAD
ACCEPT
THEIR
CHALLENGE,
WITH
HONOR AND
COURAGE.



WE NEED TO,
IN ORDER TO
CONVINCE THE
PEOPLE TO
FOLLOW US
ONCE THE
BATTLE IS
OVER.



IT'S OUR
OPENING
MOVE IN
THE FIGHT
FOR THE
FUTURE.



YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
DON'T
YOU, MR.
MAYOR?



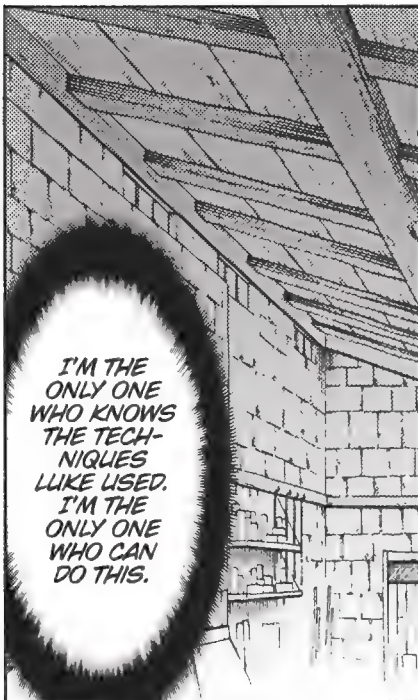
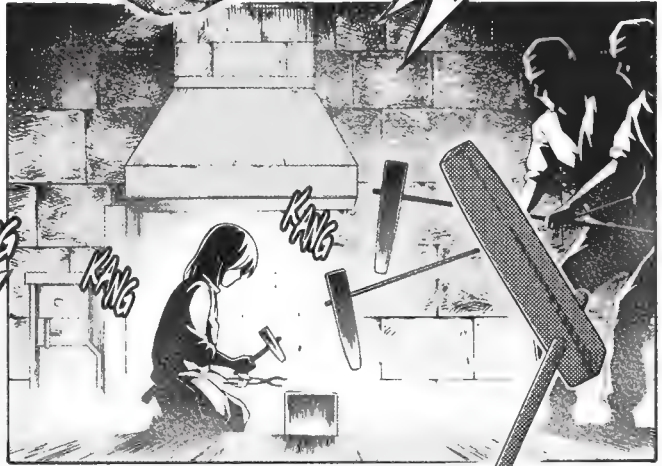
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
ANYMORE
TO SIT
AROUND,
DOING
NOTHING.

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



NOW
THAT
LUKE IS
BLIND...

THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN
FORGE THE
SACRED BLADE
IS ME!



WE
MUST
TALK.

 Chapter 48 Sacred Sword (Part 2)





I WILL
BE
BLUNT.

YOUR SKILLS
ARE UTTERLY
INSUFFICIENT
TO FORGE A
NEW SACRED
BLADE.



I'M SURE
THAT
SOMEDAY---

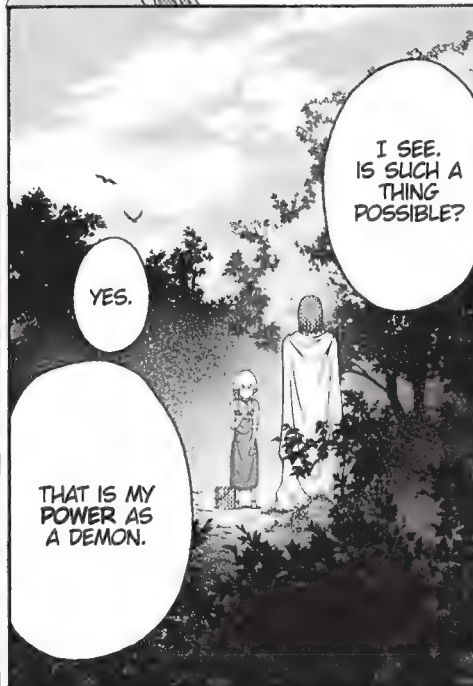
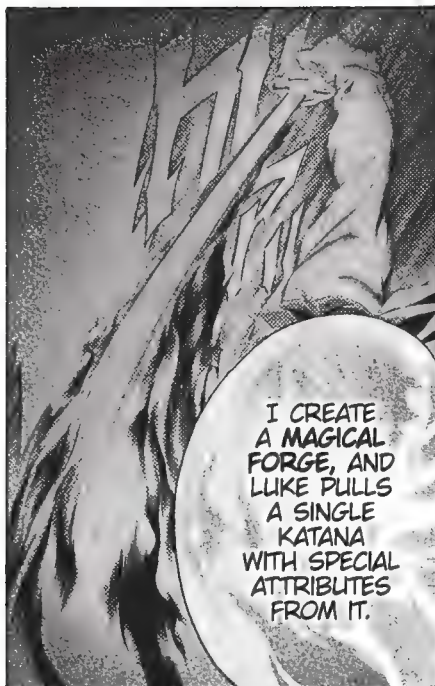
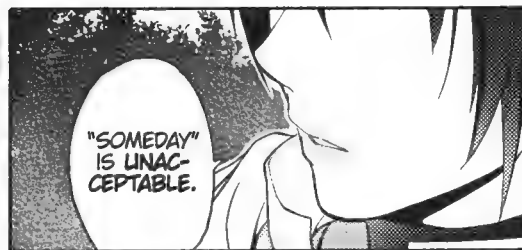
I KNOW
I'M NOWHERE
NEAR AS GOOD
AS LUKE WAS,
BUT I'M
TRYING REALLY
HARD!

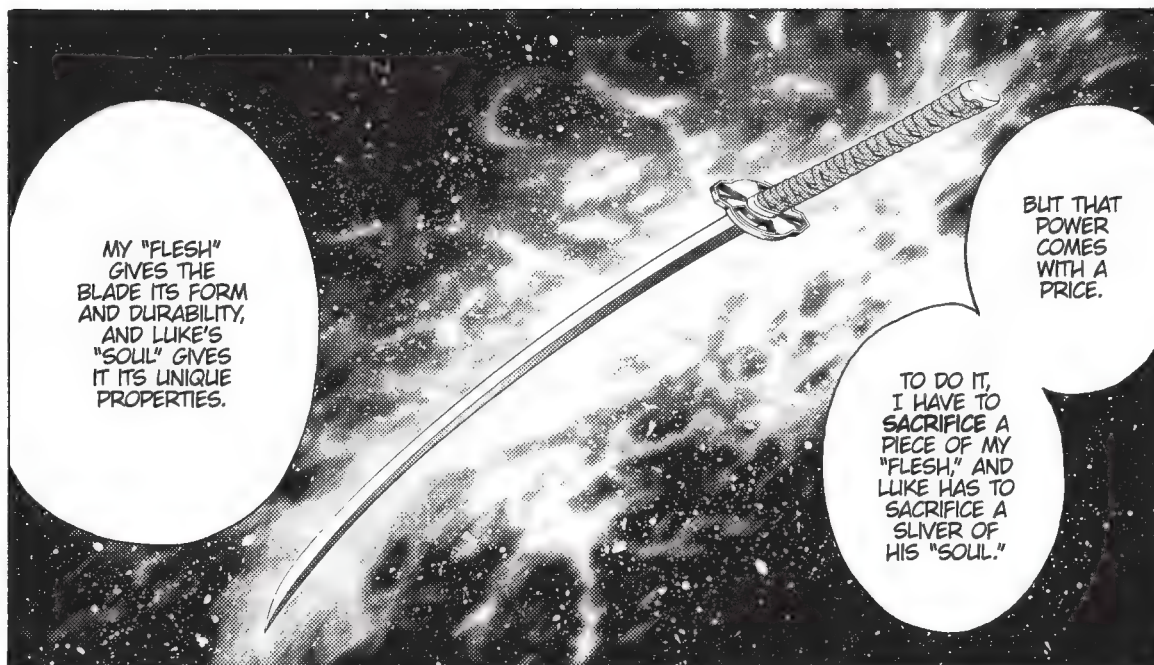


AH...!

LM...

I... I'M
SORRY.





MY "FLESH"
GIVES THE
BLADE ITS FORM
AND DURABILITY,
AND LUKE'S
"SOUL" GIVES
IT ITS UNIQUE
PROPERTIES.

BUT THAT
POWER
COMES
WITH A
PRICE.

TO DO IT,
I HAVE TO
SACRIFICE A
PIECE OF MY
"FLESH," AND
LUKE HAS TO
SACRIFICE A
SLIVER OF
HIS "SOUL."



I SEE...
BUT
THERE IS
ONE THING
I DO
NOT YET
UNDER-
STAND.



"JUST LIKE
WE
PROMISED
EACH OTHER,
ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO..."

"LET'S
LOSE IT ALL
TOGETHER."



UM,
WELL...
IT ALL
HAPPENED
ABOUT
FOUR
YEARS
AGO.

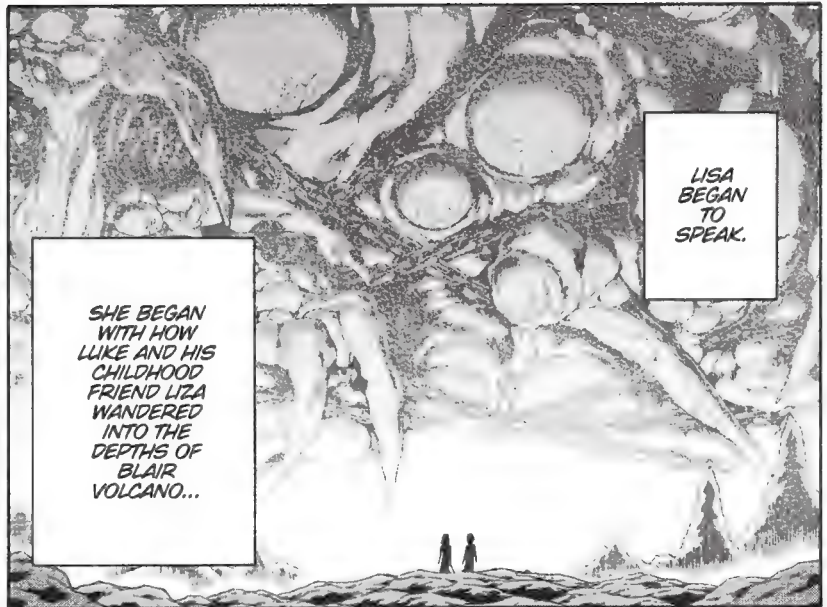


WHAT
ARE
YOU?

IN ALL
MY YEARS,
I HAVE NEVER
HEARD OF A
DEMON THAT
COULD TAKE
HUMAN FORM
THAT WAS
NOT A DEMON
BLADE.



COMING
ACROSS
THE "WALL
OF FLESH"
THAT WAS
VALBANILL
ITSELF.



LISA
BEGAN
TO
SPEAK.

SHE BEGAN
WITH HOW
LUKE AND HIS
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND LIZA
WANDERED
INTO THE
DEPTHS OF
BLAIR
VOLCANO...



SHE SAID THE
"WALL OF FLESH"
WHISPERED IN
LIZA'S MIND,
REVEALING HER
DEATH PHRASE,
AND THAT LIZA
THEN PERFORMED
A DEMON PACT.

SHE SPOKE
OF HOW LUKE'S
FATHER,
WHO CAME TO
RESCUE THEM,
WAS KILLED,
AND HOW LIZA
WAS GRAVELY
INJURED.



IN THE END,
A TERRIFIED
AND WOUNDED
LUKE DRAGGED
THE NEWBORN
DEMON ALONG
WITH HIM, AND
THEY ESCAPED.

THE POWER
OF LIZA'S
DEMON PACT
DREW IN
EVERYTHING
NEARBY,
CREATING
A "DEMON"
OF HER.

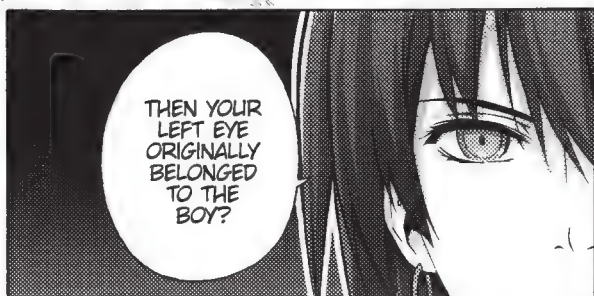
LIZA'S FLESH,
LUKE'S BLADE,
SPIRIT
ESSENCE,
VALBANILL'S
BLOOD,
LUKE'S LEFT
EYE.

SHE WANTED
TO BE SURE
THAT EVEN
AFTER SHE
WAS GONE,
HE WOULD
HAVE REASON
TO SMILE.

I WAS
CREATED
FROM
LIZA'S
FEELINGS
FOR LUKE.



THAT
DEMON IS
ME.



THEN YOUR
LEFT EYE
ORIGINALLY
BELONGED
TO THE
BOY?

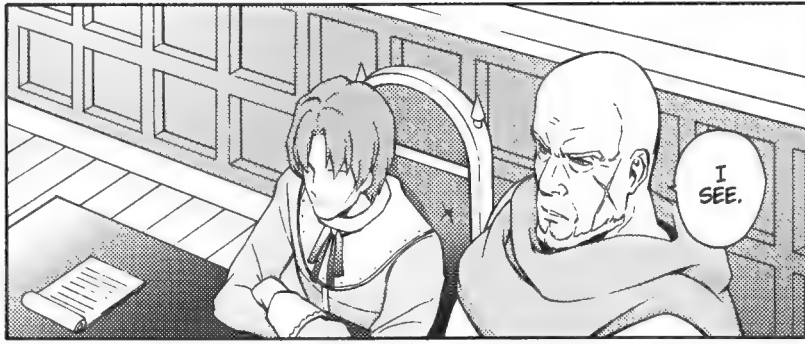


THERE
MAY BE A
WAY FOR
THE BOY TO
REGAIN
HIS SIGHT.



I
HAVE AN
IDEA.

HUH?

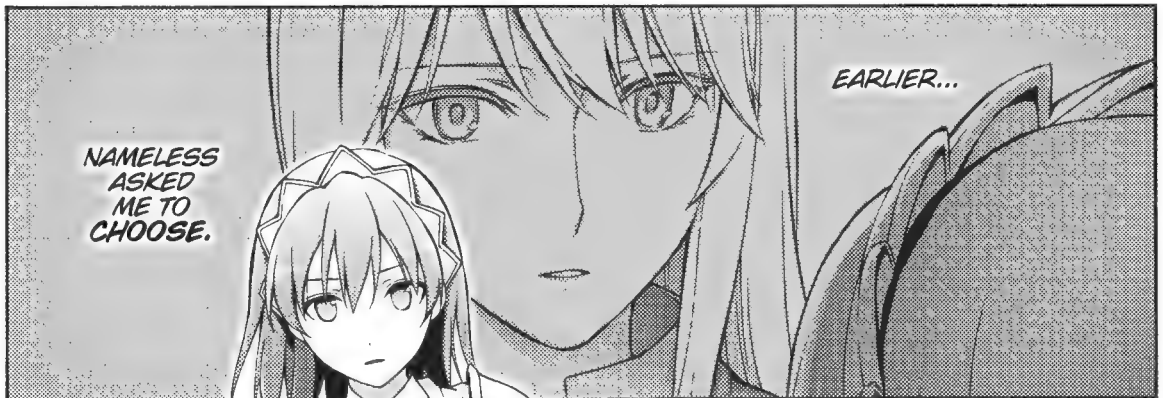
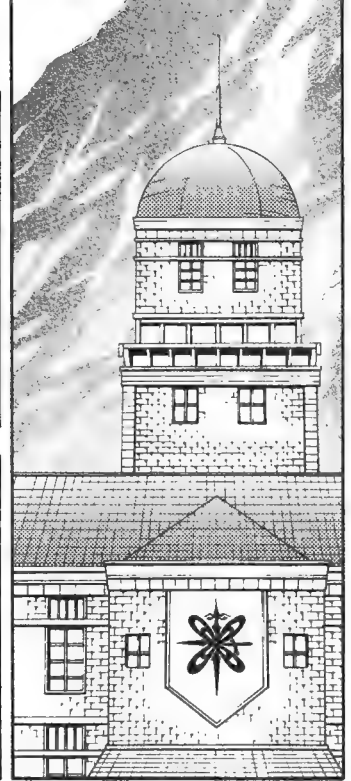


I SEE.



YES, SIR.
I WILL
SOMETIME
TODAY.

I KNOW THIS
WILL BE A
HARD DECISION
FOR YOU TO
MAKE, BUT
WE NEED YOU
TO MAKE IT
SOON.



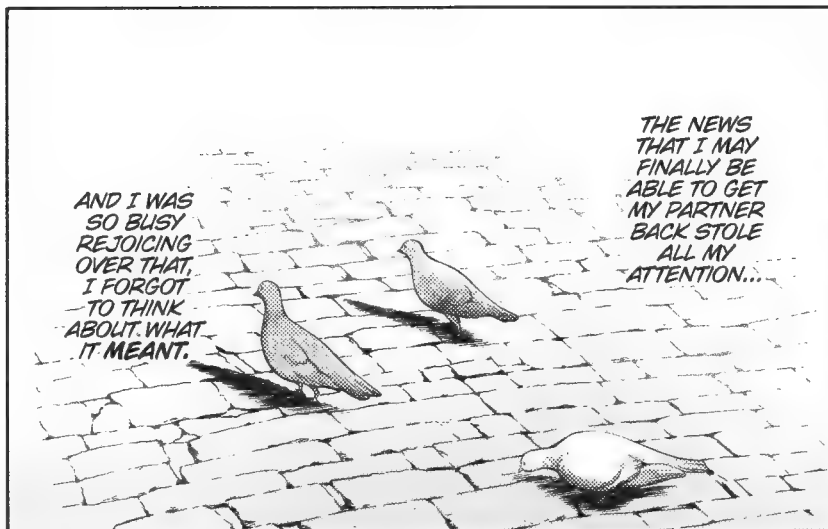
NAMELESS
ASKED
ME TO
CHOOSE.

EARLIER...



WHY
DIDN'T I
REALIZE IT
SOONER?

SHE SAID IT
WOULD BE UP TO
ME WHETHER OR
NOT ARIA WOULD
BE USED AS
PART OF THE
MATERIALS TO
FORGE THE NEW
SACRED BLADE.

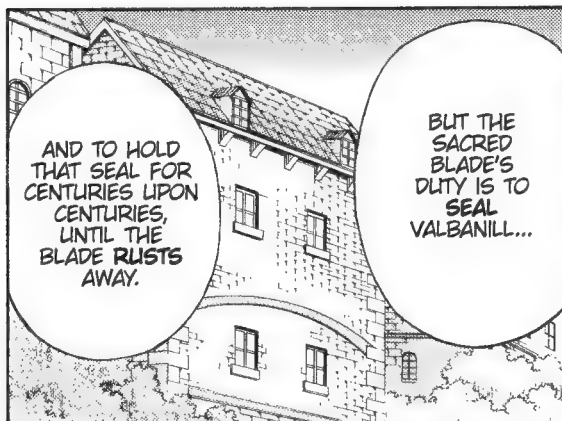


AND I WAS
SO BUSY
REJOICING
OVER THAT,
I FORGOT
TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT
IT MEANT.

THE NEWS
THAT I MAY
FINALLY BE
ABLE TO GET
MY PARTNER
BACK STOLE
ALL MY
ATTENTION...



I GOT
AHEAD OF
MYSELF.



AND TO HOLD
THAT SEAL FOR
CENTURIES UPON
CENTURIES,
UNTIL THE
BLADE RUSTS
AWAY.

BUT THE
SACRED
BLADE'S
DUTY IS TO
SEAL
VALBANILL...



YE GODS,
I AM
SUCH A
SHALLOW
HUMAN
BEING...

THIS IS
THE ONLY
WAY TO
REVIVE
ARIA.



DESPITE
THAT...

BUT
...



SHE WOULD
BE LEFT ALL
ALONE IN
THE DARK,
DARK DEPTHS
OF THAT
VOLCANO...







PLEASE
TELL
ME!

R-
REALLY
?!

TELL
ME HOW
LUKE CAN
GET HIS
EYESIGHT
BACK!!

W
H
A
T
?!



THEN
I DON'T
CARE
HOW
MUCH IT
HURTS!!

I...
I DON'T
MIND!!
IF IT'S
FOR
LUKE'S
SAKE...

AND
FOR
YOU.

NOT ONLY
THAT, IT
WILL BE A
PAINFUL
ONE.
BOTH FOR
HIM...

IT IS
ONLY A
POSSIBLE
SOLUTION.

AS YOU
WISH.
HERE IS
HOW.



A close-up, black and white illustration of a character's face, shown in profile from the nose up. The character has short, light-colored hair and a serious expression. The background is dark and textured.

YOU WILL
PERFORM A
DEMON PACT
AND SACRIFICE
YOUR EYE
TO RETURN
IT BACK
TO HIM.



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

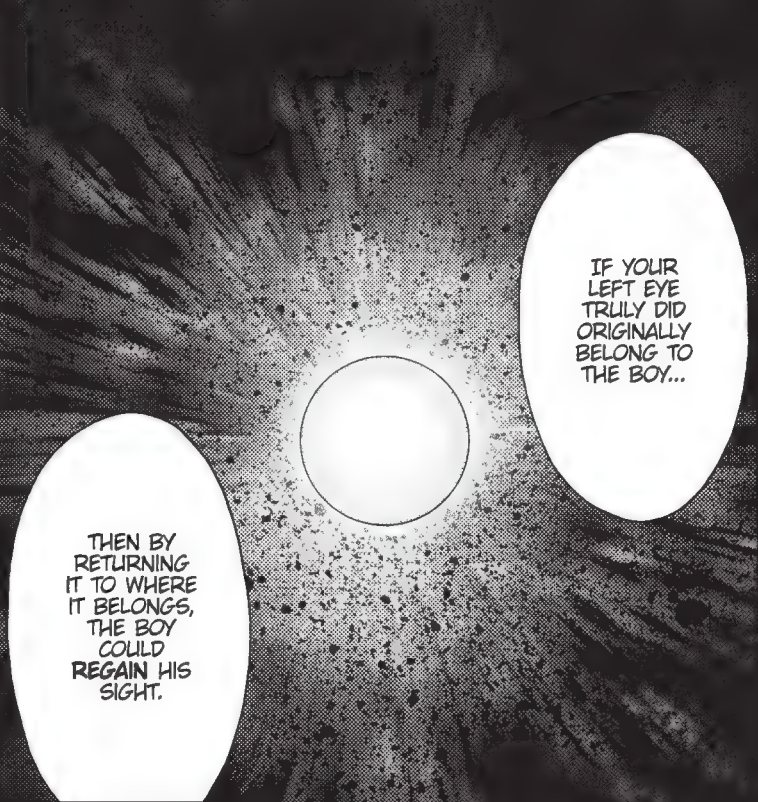
聖剣の刀鍛冶



AFTER ALL,
ONE EYE
SHOULD BE
ENOUGH,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

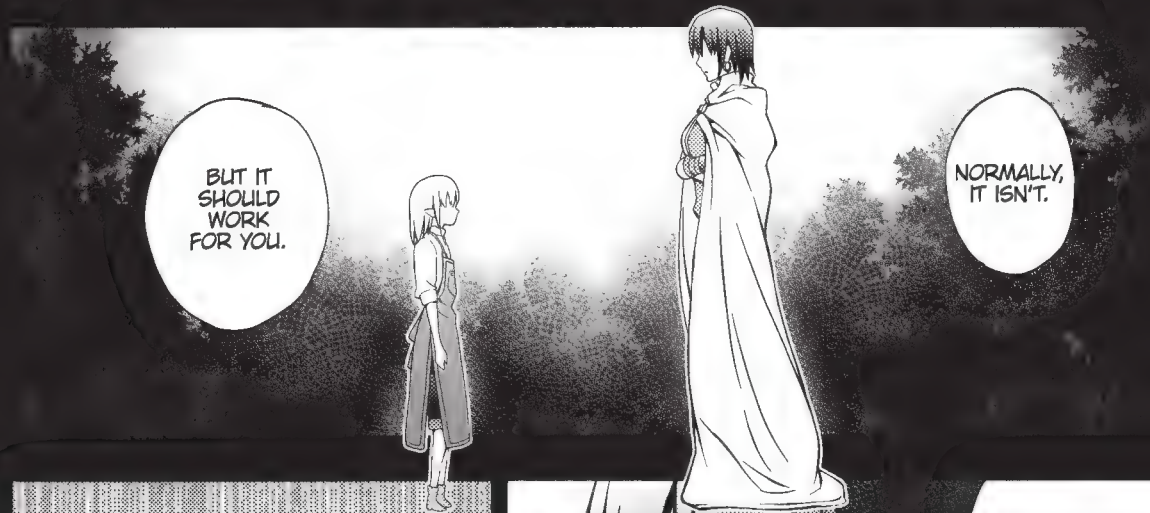


BUT THAT
SHOULDN'T
BE
POSSIBLE
....!



THEN BY
RETURNING
IT TO WHERE
IT BELONGS,
THE BOY
COULD
REGAIN HIS
SIGHT.

IF YOUR
LEFT EYE
TRULY DID
ORIGINALLY
BELONG TO
THE BOY...

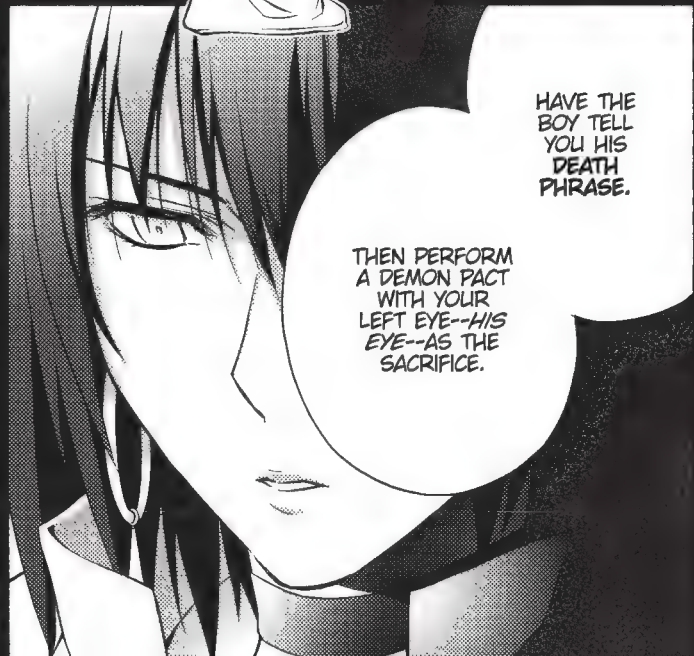


BUT IT
SHOULD
WORK
FOR YOU.

NORMALLY,
IT ISN'T.



!!



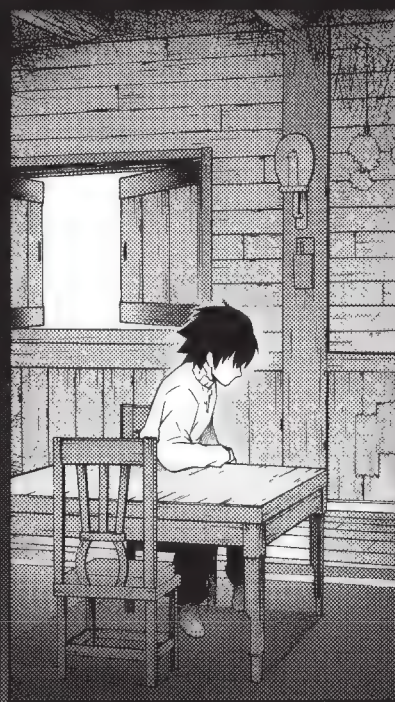
HAVE THE
BOY TELL
YOU HIS
DEATH
PHRASE.

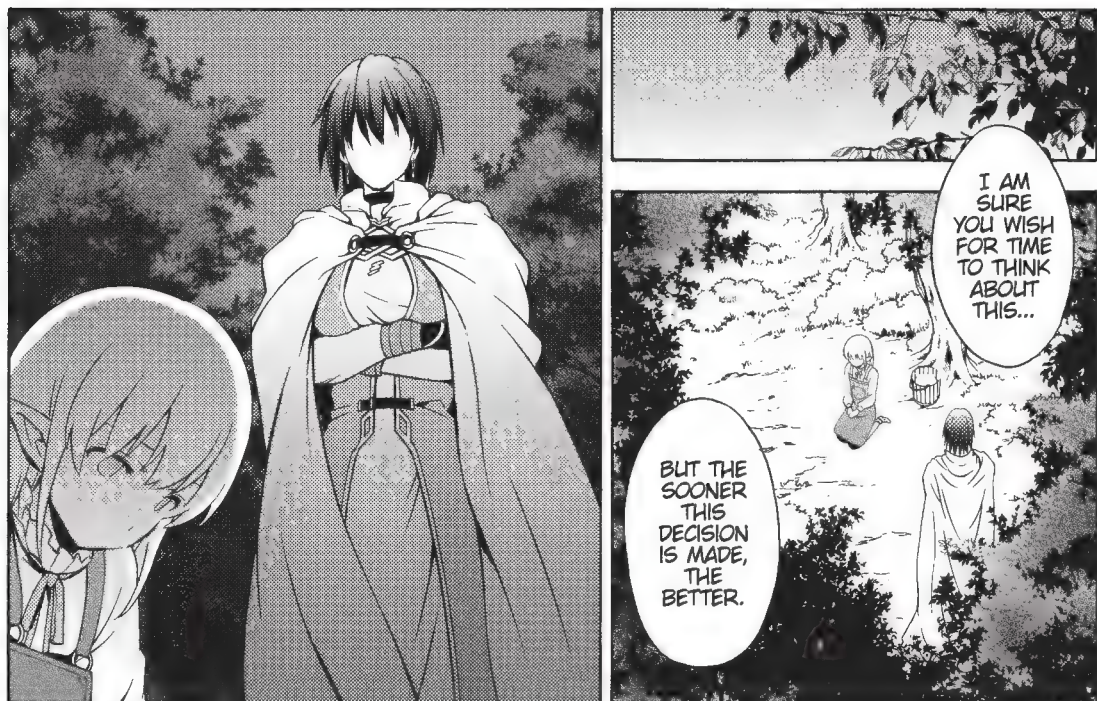
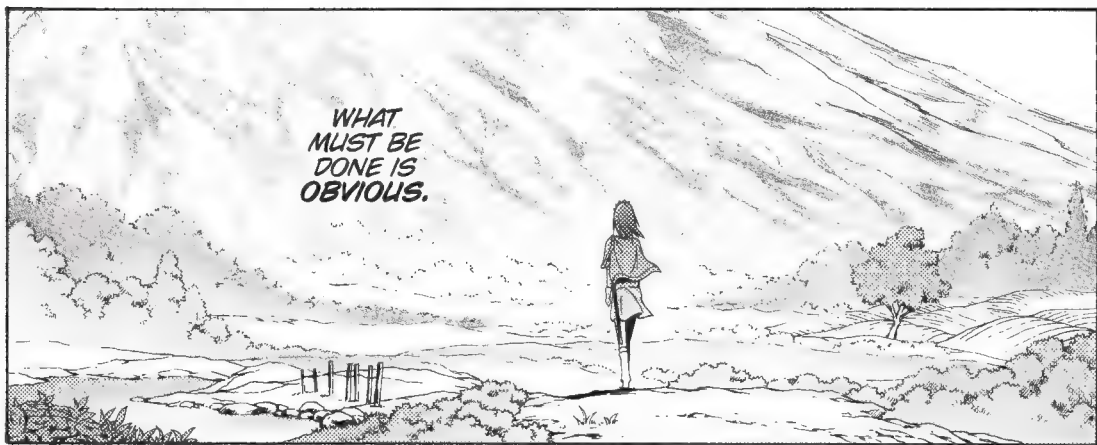
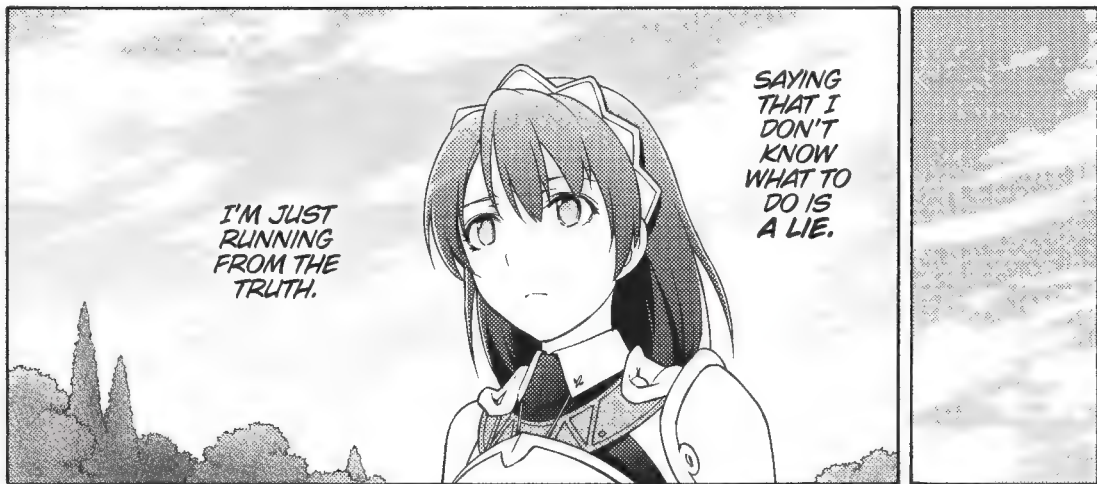
THEN PERFORM
A DEMON PACT
WITH YOUR
LEFT EYE--HIS
EYE--AS THE
SACRIFICE.

IT WAS
THE
PERFECT
SOLUTION.

FOR
LISA...

 Chapter 49 **Sacred Sword** (Part 3)

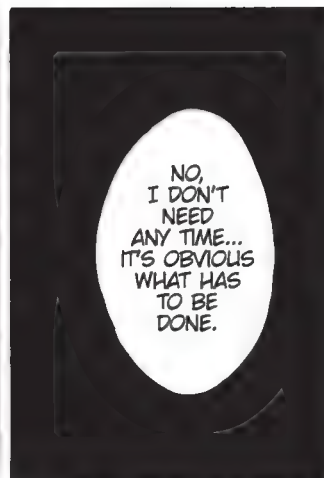




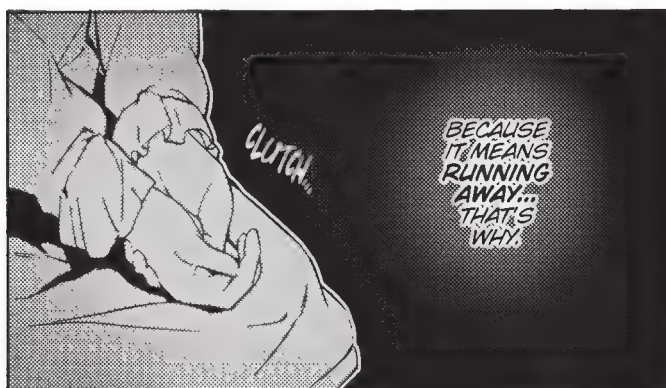


SO WHY
AM I
HESITATING?

I JUST
NEED TO
GO AND
DO IT...

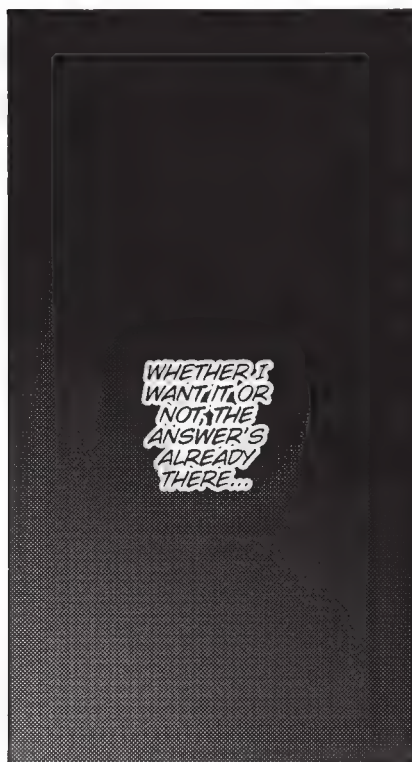


NO,
I DON'T
NEED
ANY TIME...
IT'S OBVIOUS
WHAT HAS
TO BE
DONE.

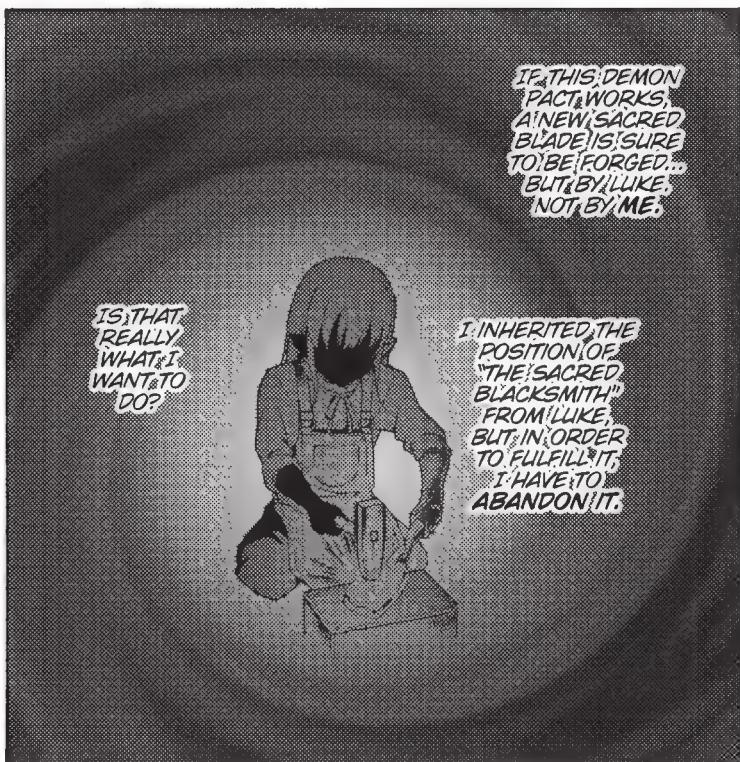


CLUTCH...

BECAUSE
IT MEANS
RUNNING
AWAY...
THAT'S
WHY.



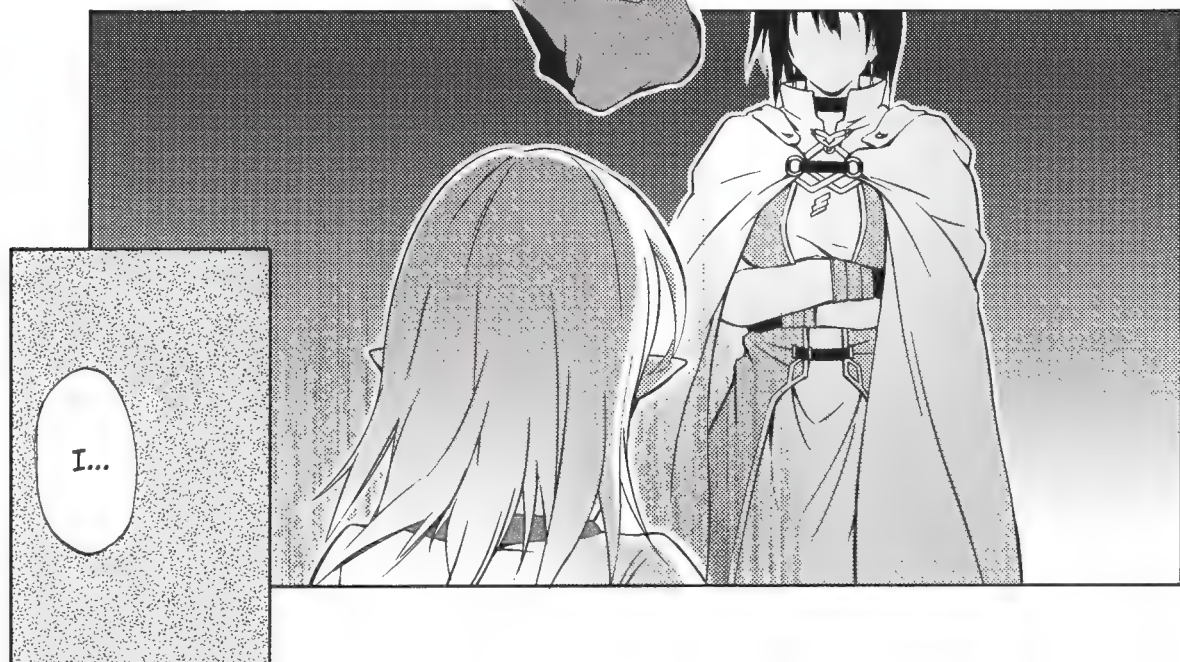
WHETHER I
WANT IT OR
NOT, THE
ANSWER'S
ALREADY
THERE...

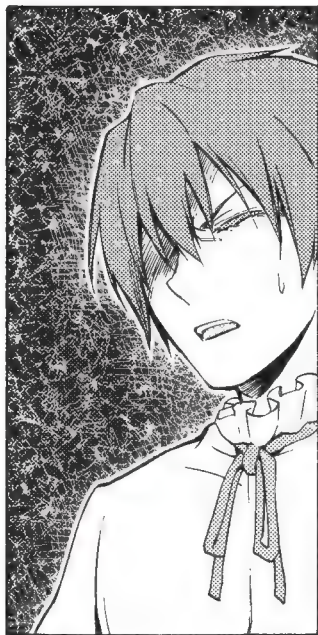


IF THIS DEMON
PACT WORKS,
A NEW SACRED
BLADE IS SURE
TO BE FORGED...
BUT BY LUKE,
NOT BY ME.

IS THAT
REALLY
WHAT I
WANT TO
DO?

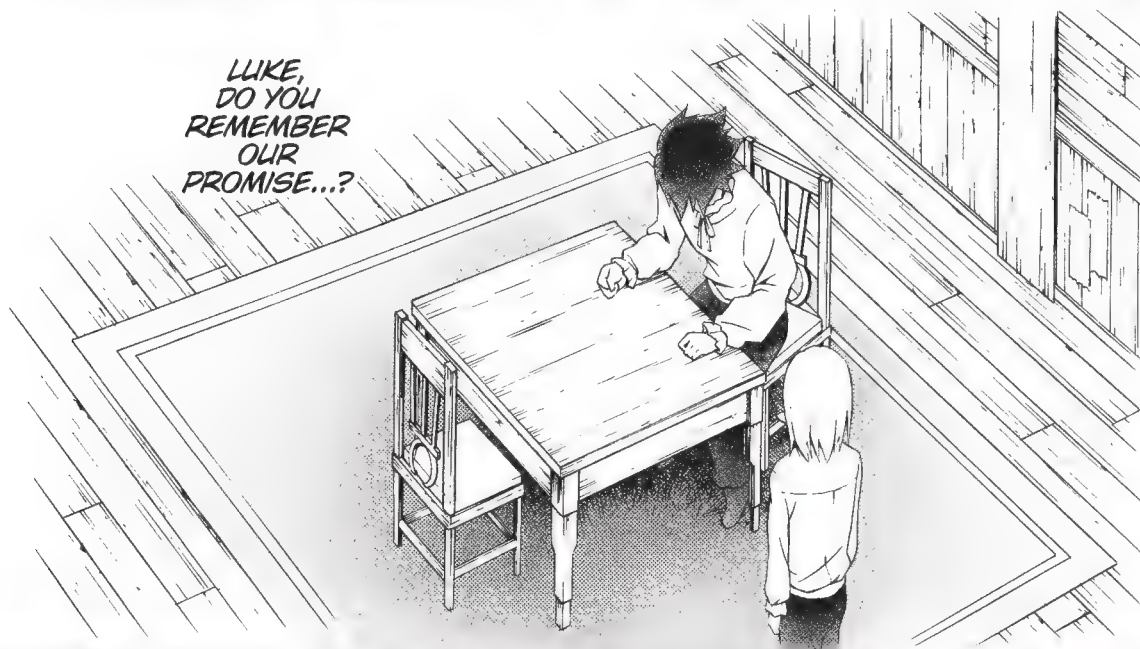
I INHERITED THE
POSITION OF
"THE SACRED
BLACKSMITH"
FROM LUKE,
BUT IN ORDER
TO FULFILL IT,
I HAVE TO
ABANDON IT.





I'LL
DO
IT!!





WILL LOSE
EVERYTHING...
TOGETHER.

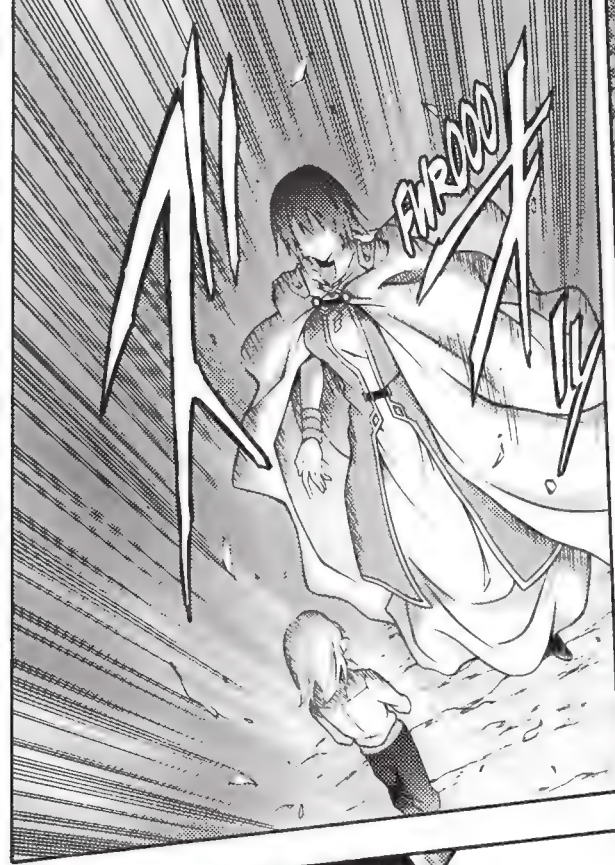
THE
TWO OF
US...



RIGHT!

LET
US
BEGIN.





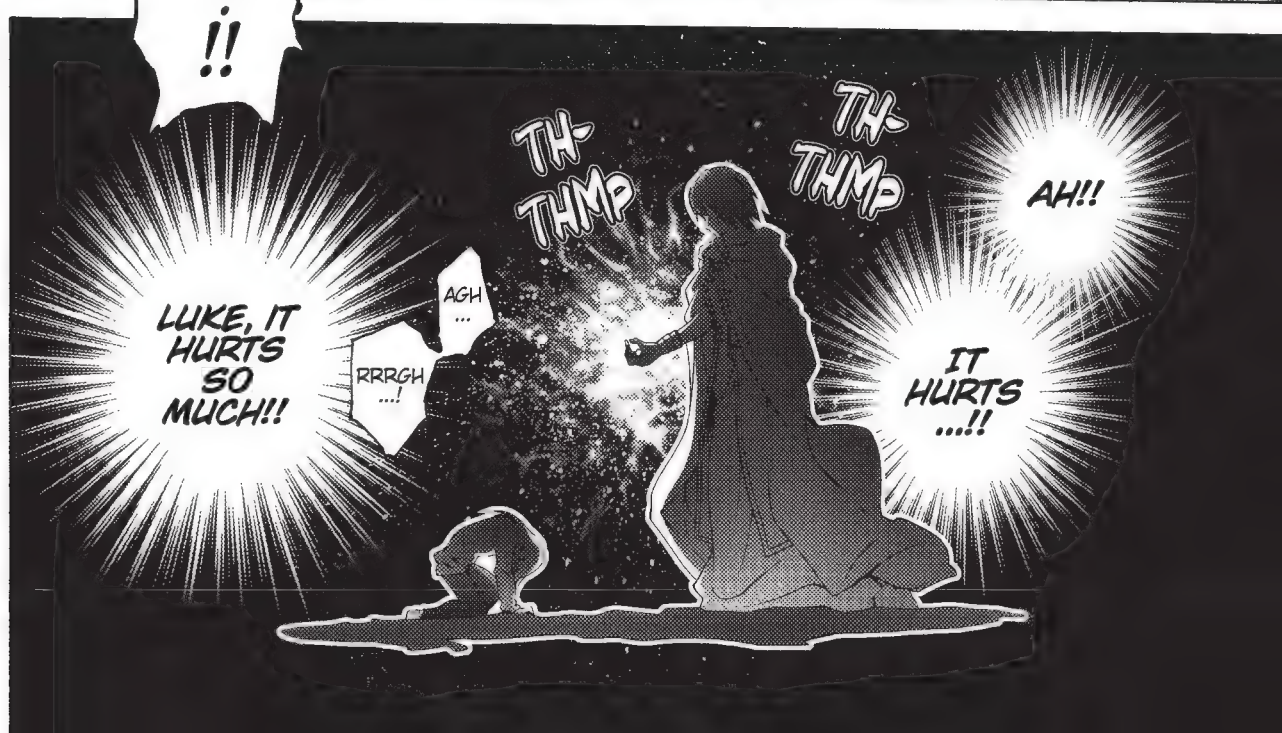
I ADMIRE
YOUR
COURAGE,
DEMON
GIRL.

MAY IT
STRENGTHEN
YOU UNTIL
THE END.



I WILL NOW
REMOVE
YOUR LEFT
EYEBALL.
ARE YOU
PREPARED?

YES,
MA'AM!
PLEASE
DO IT
WHEN-
EVER
YOU'RE
READY!



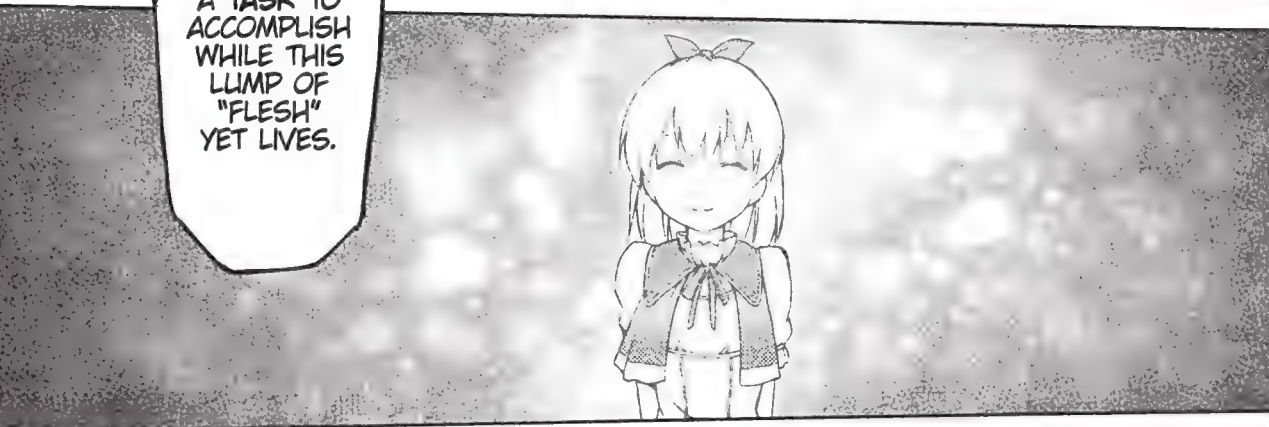


DO NOT
ALLOW
YOUR
HEART TO
FALTER.



STAY
FOCUSED,
DEMON
GIRL.

WERE
YOU NOT
GOING TO
SEE THIS
THROUGH
TO THE
END?



YOU HAVE
A TASK TO
ACCOMPLISH
WHILE THIS
LUMP OF
"FLESH"
YET LIVES.



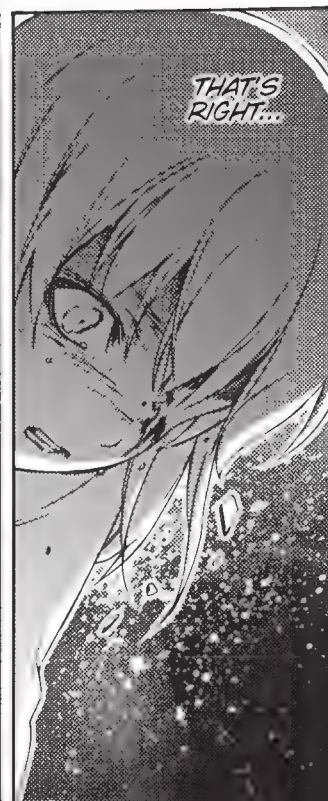
I WON'T
LET
MYSELF!!



MISS CECILY
ENTRUSTED
THIS TO ME.

SHE TOLD
ME TO HELP
LIKE...
TO SAVE
HIM.

I CAN'T
GIVE UP
NOW!



THAT'S
RIGHT...

RECITE
THE
DEATH
PHRASE.

NOW...





GLEEEEEAAAM

GIVE HIM THE
STRENGTH
HE NEEDS TO
COMPLETE
HIS DUTY...

GIVE HIM THE
STRENGTH
HE NEEDS TO
BE LUKE
AINSWORTH!

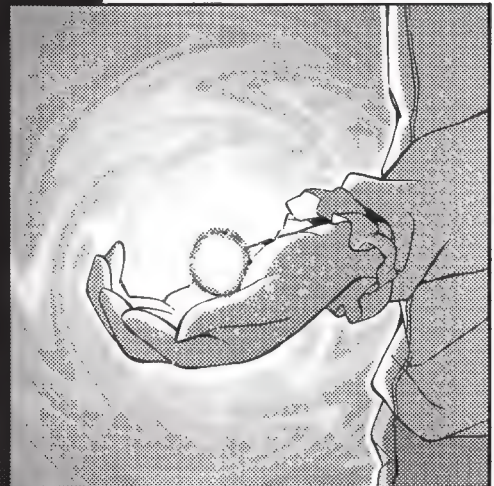
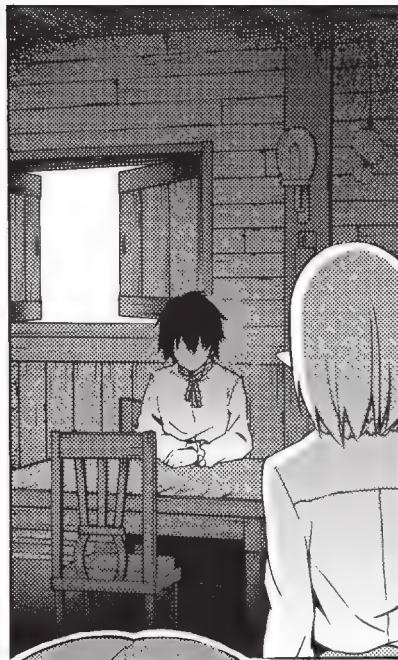
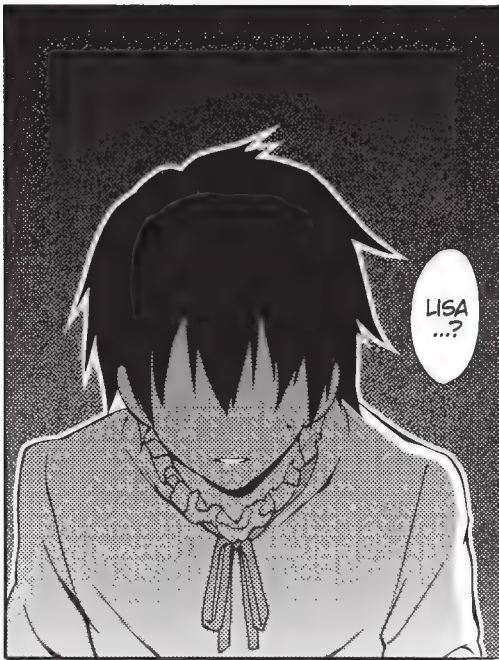
GO BACK.
TO HIM...
GO BACK
AND HELP
HIM IN THIS
FIGHT.

YOU HAVE
TO GIVE
HIM BACK
HIS
SIGHT...

YOU NEED
TO GO
BACK TO
WHERE YOU
BELONG--
TO LUKE.

HMPH.
THIS IS
PROBABLY
THE FIRST
TIME IN THE
CONTINENT'S
HISTORY THAT
A DEMON
HAS TRIED TO
INITIATE A
DEMON PACT.

Pool
X/E/S/

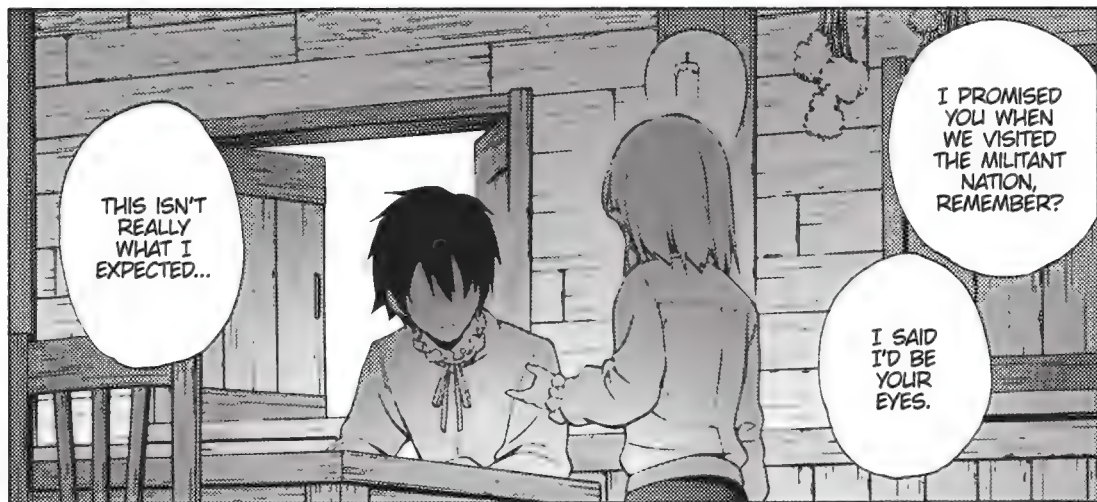
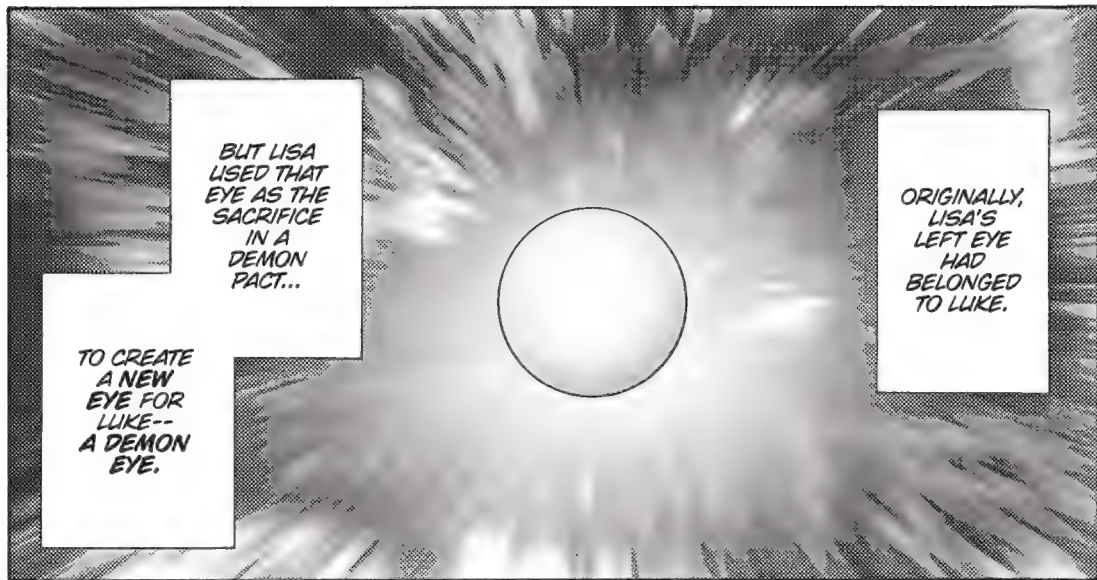


The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



KRA-THOOOM

HN?!

NGH!!



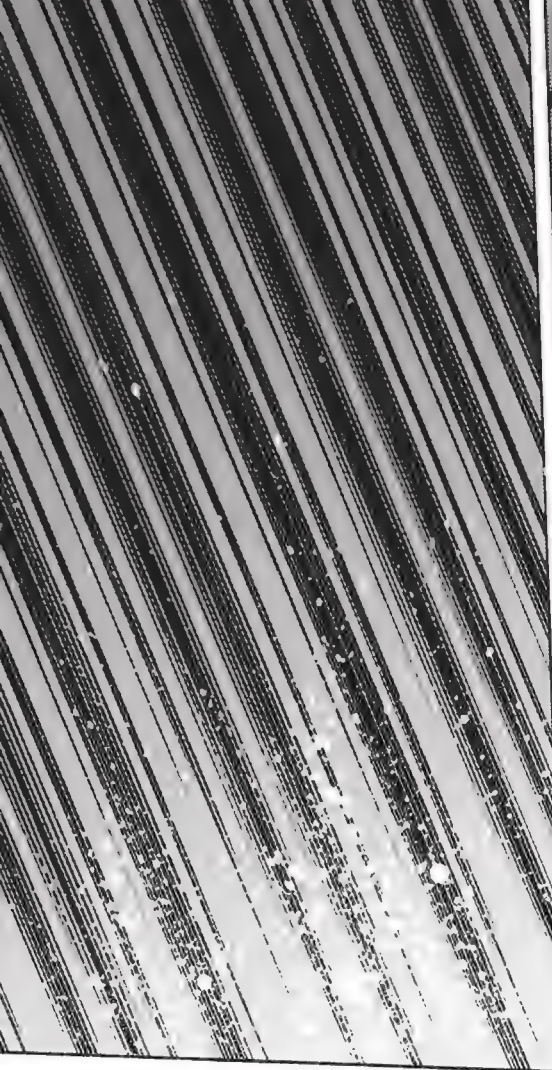
Chapter

50

Sacred Blade

(Part 4)

BAHAK



GYA-
AAH
....!!



AAAUGH!!

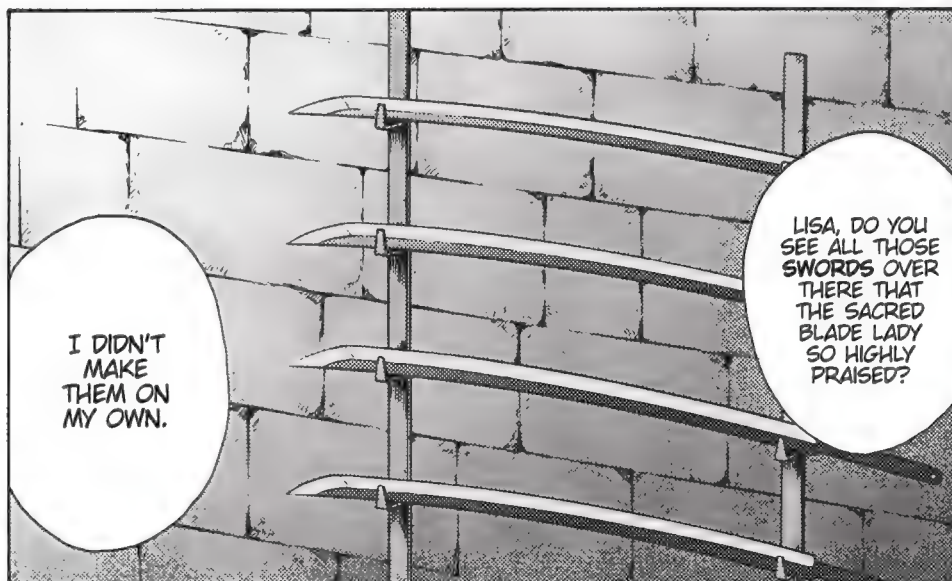
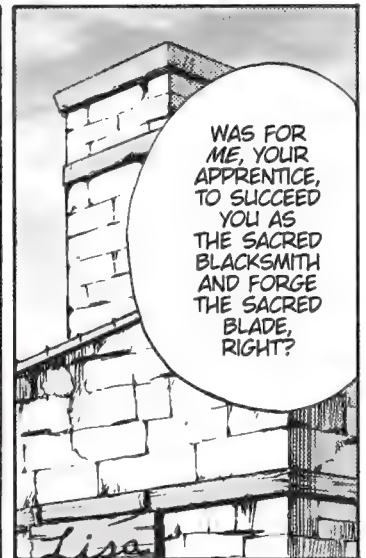
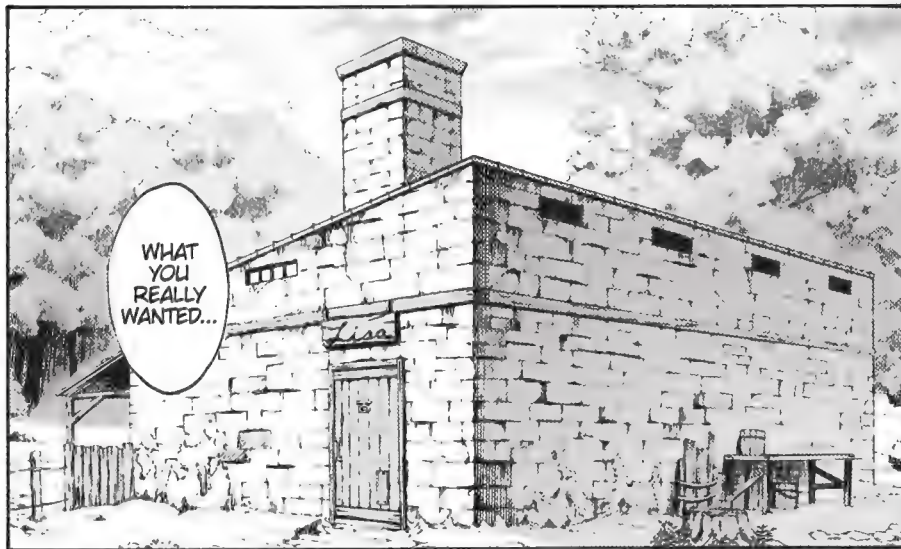


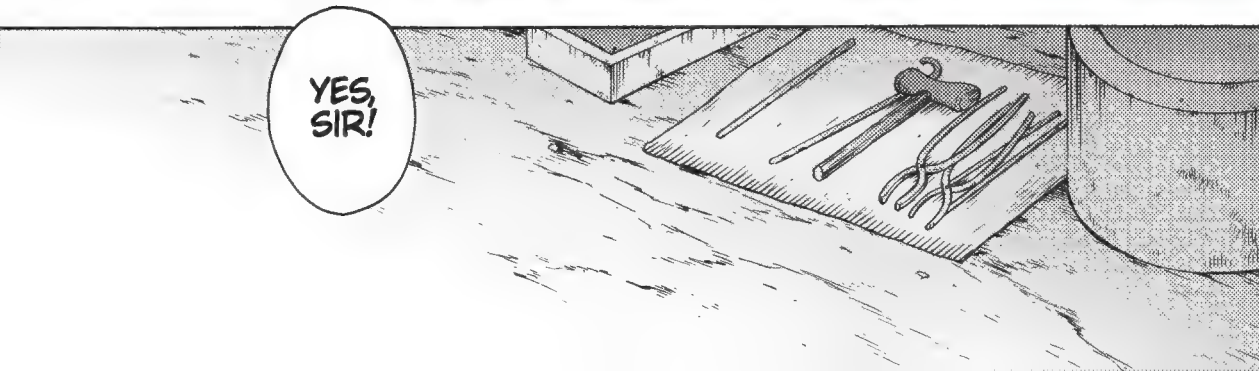
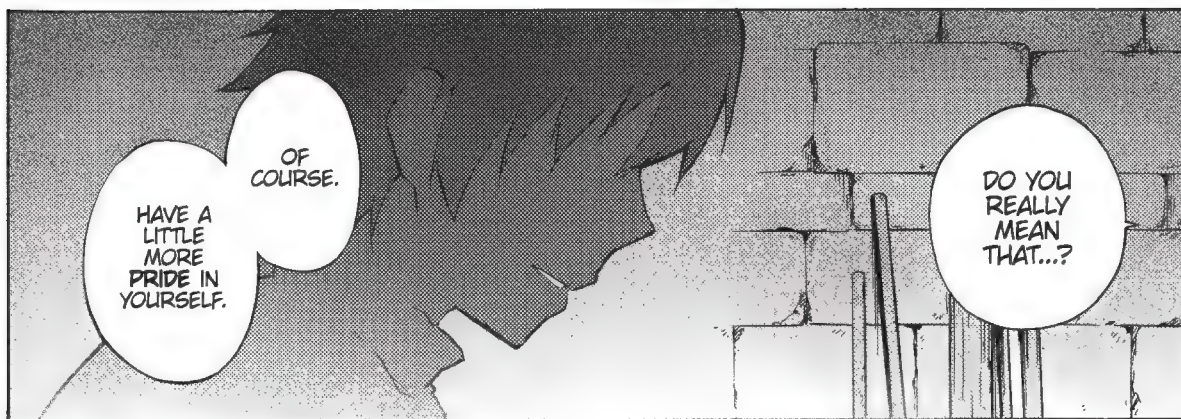
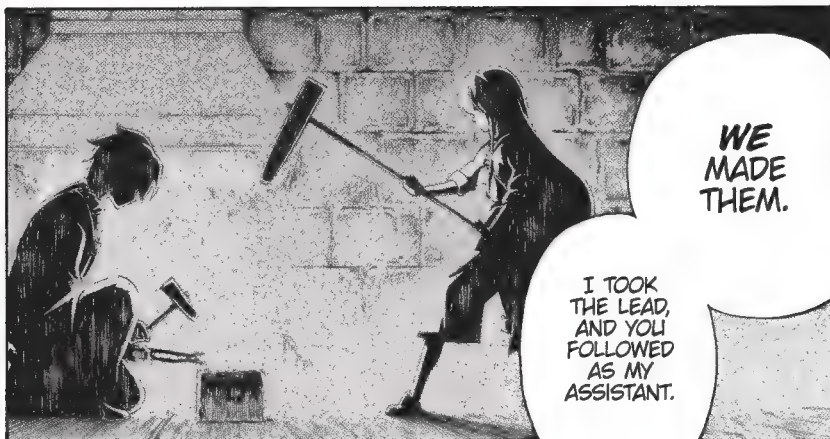
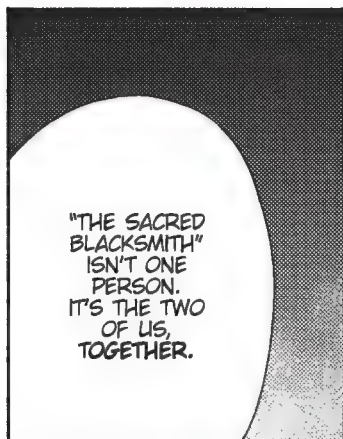
AAAH!!

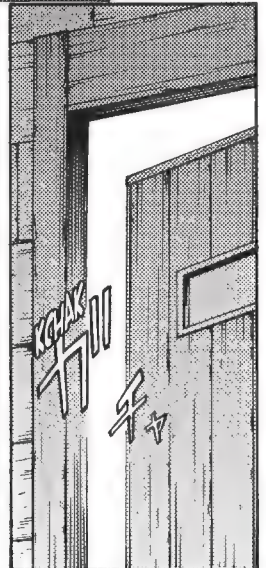
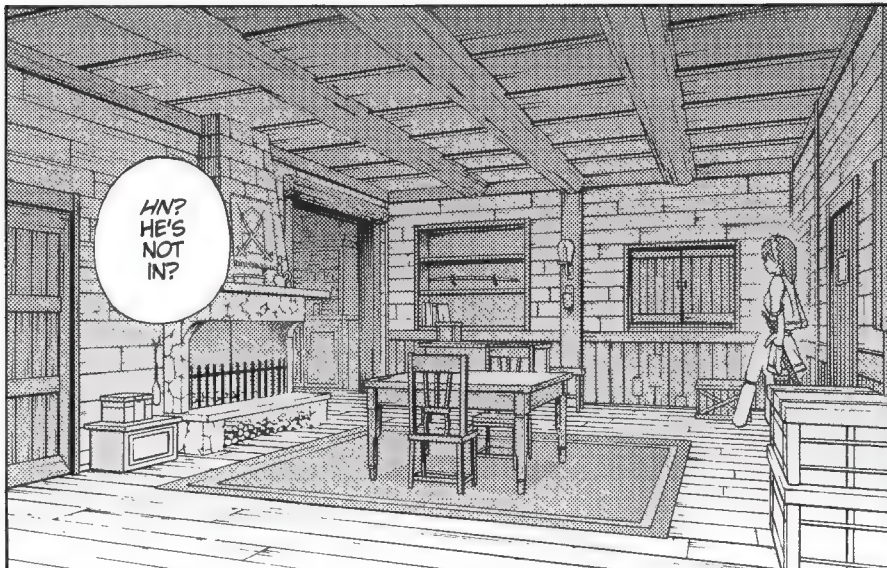
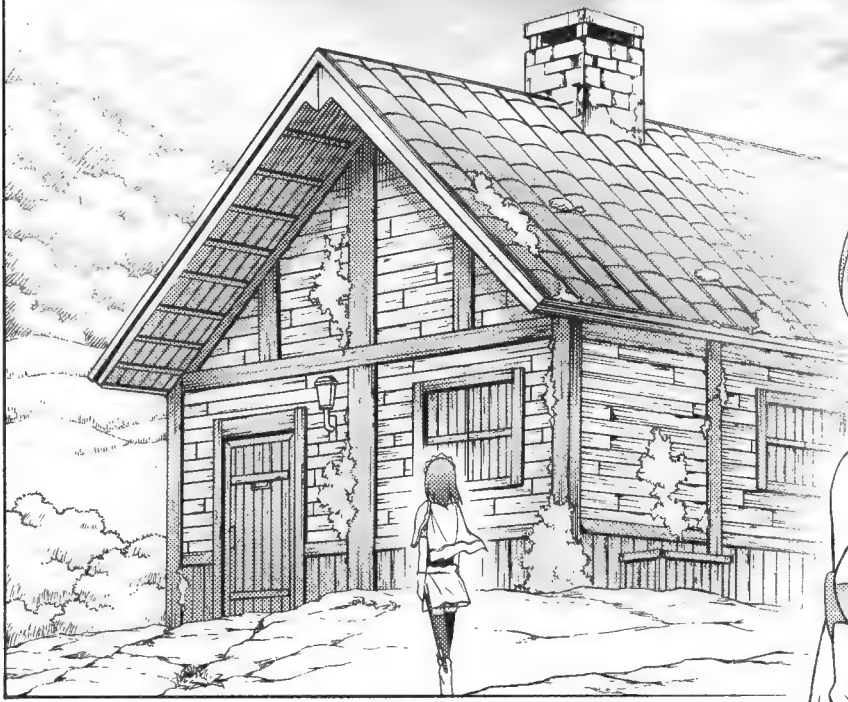
AAAAH!!

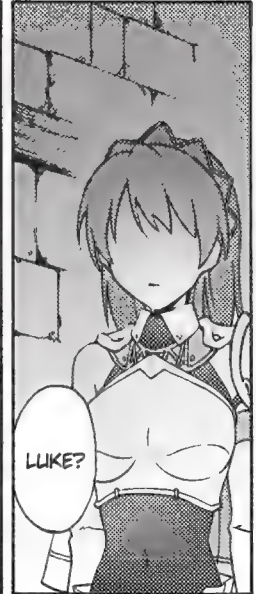
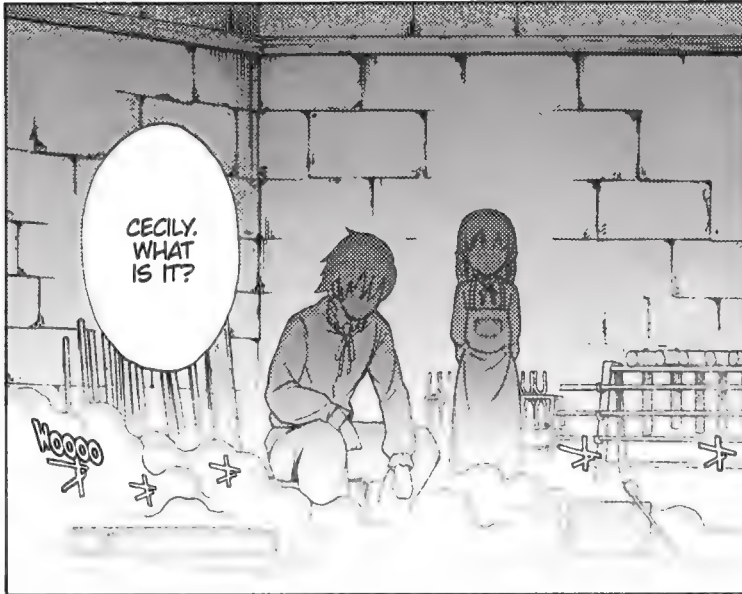
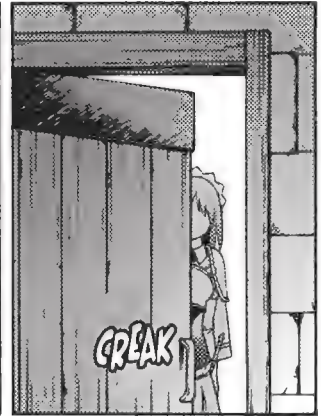
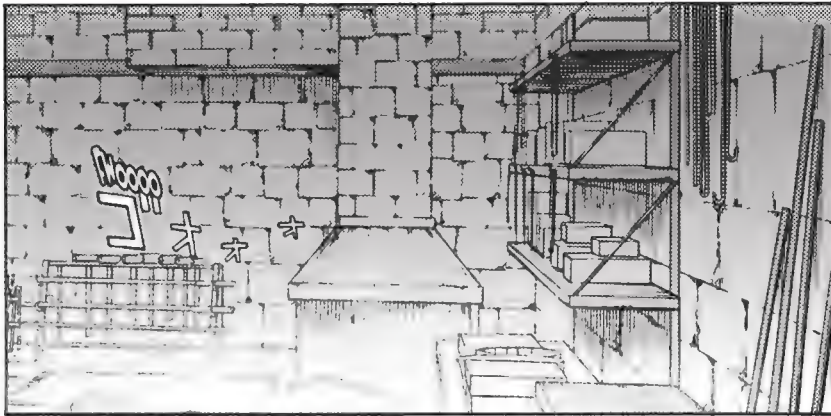
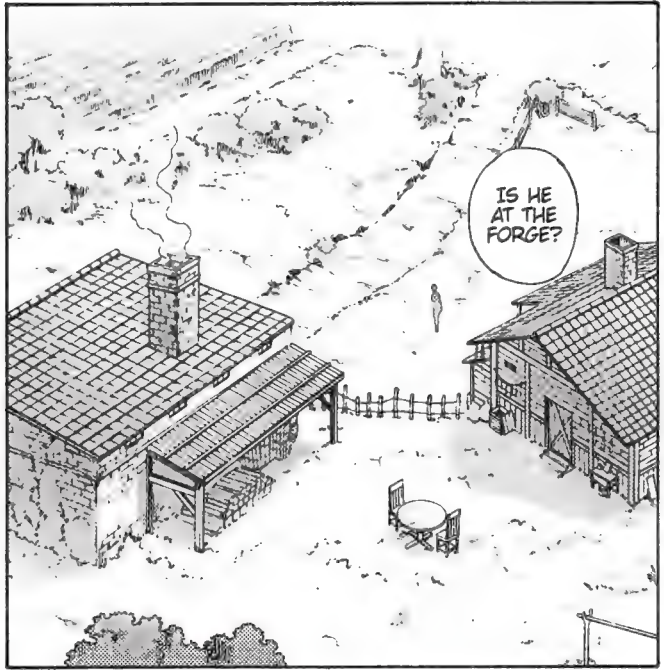
AAAH!

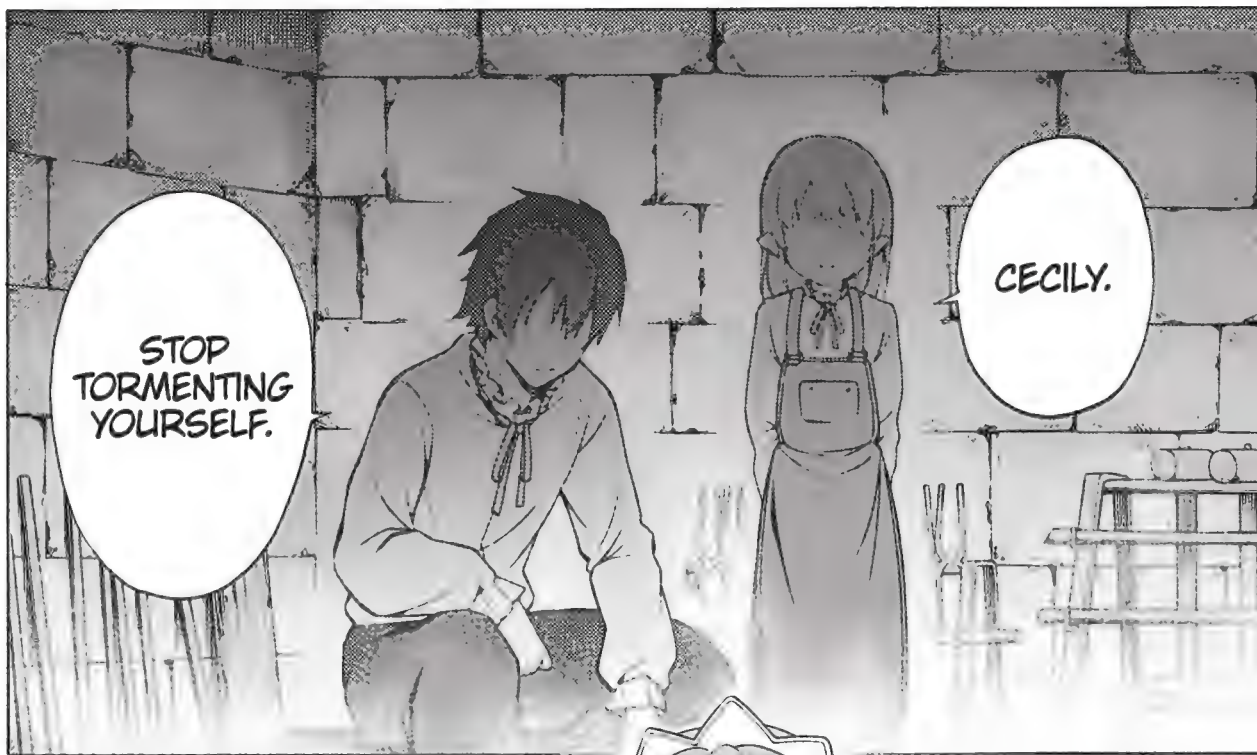
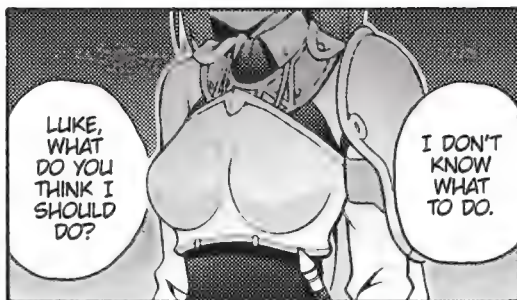
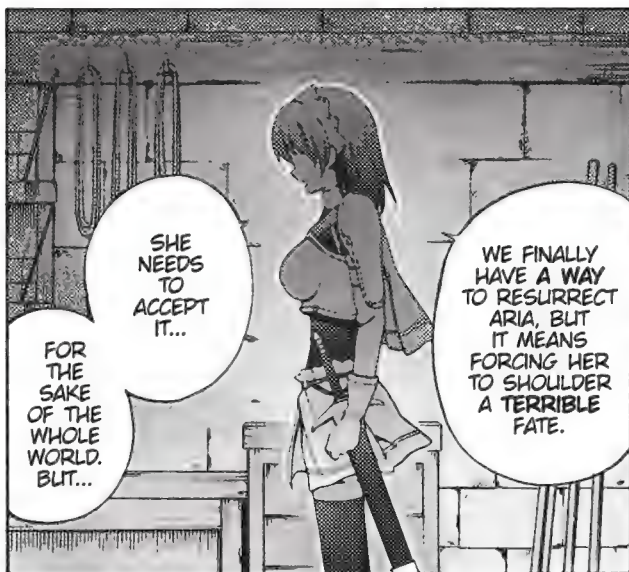
AAA--



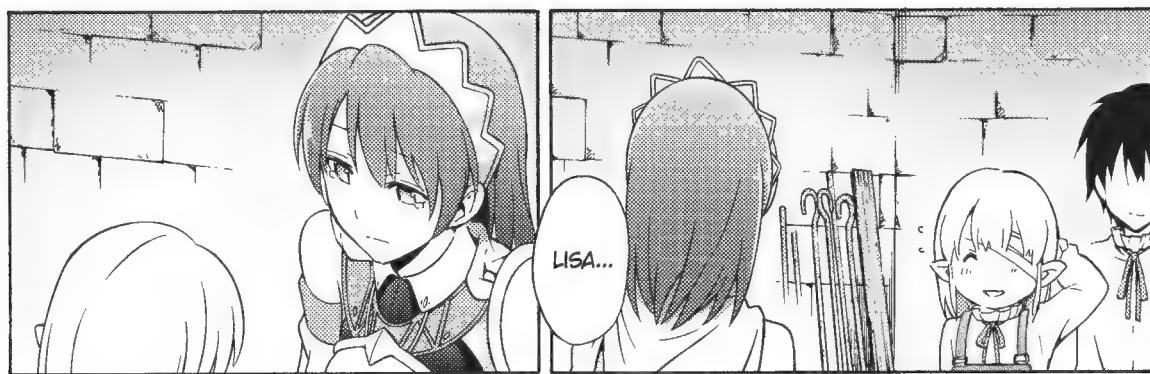


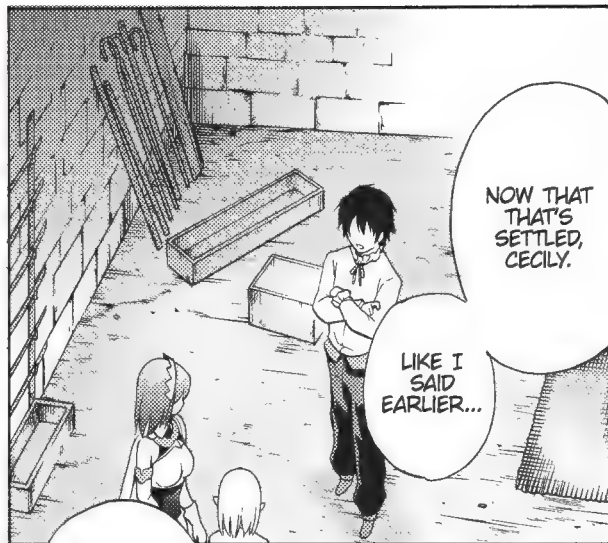














OF COURSE,
ARIA WILL
HAVE TO HOLD
THE SEAL
ON VALBANILL
UNTIL I FINISH
THE NEW,
COMPLETELY
INDEPENDENT
SACRED
BLADE...

I'M GOING TO
FORGE THE
GREATEST
BLADE THE
CONTINENT HAS
EVER SEEN,
ALL WITHOUT
USING ANY
STAR METAL
OR DEMON
BLADES AS
A BASE!

ONCE
THAT'S DONE,
THERE WON'T
BE ANY
NEED FOR
THE OTHER
SACRED
BLADES!

BUT I
SWEAR SHE
WILL NOT BE
LEFT ALONE
UNDER THAT
MOUNTAIN!
ONE DAY,
SHE WILL
COME
HOME!!



I'M GOING
TO MAKE
A BETTER
SACRED
BLADE
THAN THAT,
NO MATTER
WHAT IT
TAKES!!



I MEAN,
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?!

HELL NO!
THAT'S
NOTHING
BUT A
STUPID
EXCUSE!!

THE ONLY
REASON I
HAVEN'T
SUCCESSFULLY
MADE THE
SACRED BLADE
BEFORE NOW
IS BECAUSE
OF THE
MATERIALS?!



TO WHO
...?

I'LL
ENTRUST
IT TO
AN-
OTHER.

SO
WHEN--
IF THAT
DAY
COMES...

IT'S
ENTIRELY
POSSIBLE
I'LL DIE
BEFORE
SEEING ANY
OF THAT
THROUGH.

LUKE
....!

I DON'T
HAVE
MANY
YEARS
LEFT IN
ME.



TO OUR
CHILDREN.



LEAVE
IT ALL
TO ME.

SO
DON'T
WORRY,
OKAY?



FROM THIS
DAY FORWARD,
THE DUTY OF
THE AINSWORTH
FAMILY ISN'T
FORGING
THE SACRED
BLADE--
IT'S TO
RESCUE ARIA.

BECAUSE
I SAY
SO.
SORRY.



AND IF THEY
CAN'T DO IT,
I'M SURE
THEY WILL
CONTINUE
PASSING IT
DOWN, UNTIL
ONE DAY, A
DESCENDENT
OF OURS
WILL
SUCCEED.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
YOU FEEL LIKE
YOU HAVE TO
BLUFF AND
BLISTER
AROUND
OTHER
PEOPLE...

NO
MATTER
WHAT,
REMEMBER
THIS.

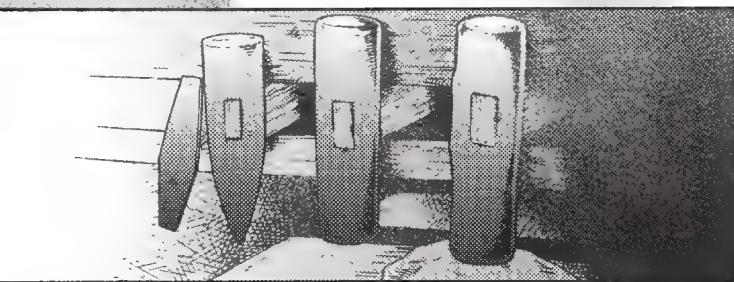
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
THERE TO
RESCUE ME,
AREN'T
YOU...?



BUT WHEN
YOU TRULY
NEED TO
LEAN ON
SOMEONE,
YOU'LL COME
TO ME AND
ONLY ME.
GOT IT?

I KNOW
NOW THAT
FOR MY
WHOLE
LIFE...

I'LL NEVER
LOVE ANY
OTHER
MAN BUT
LUKE.



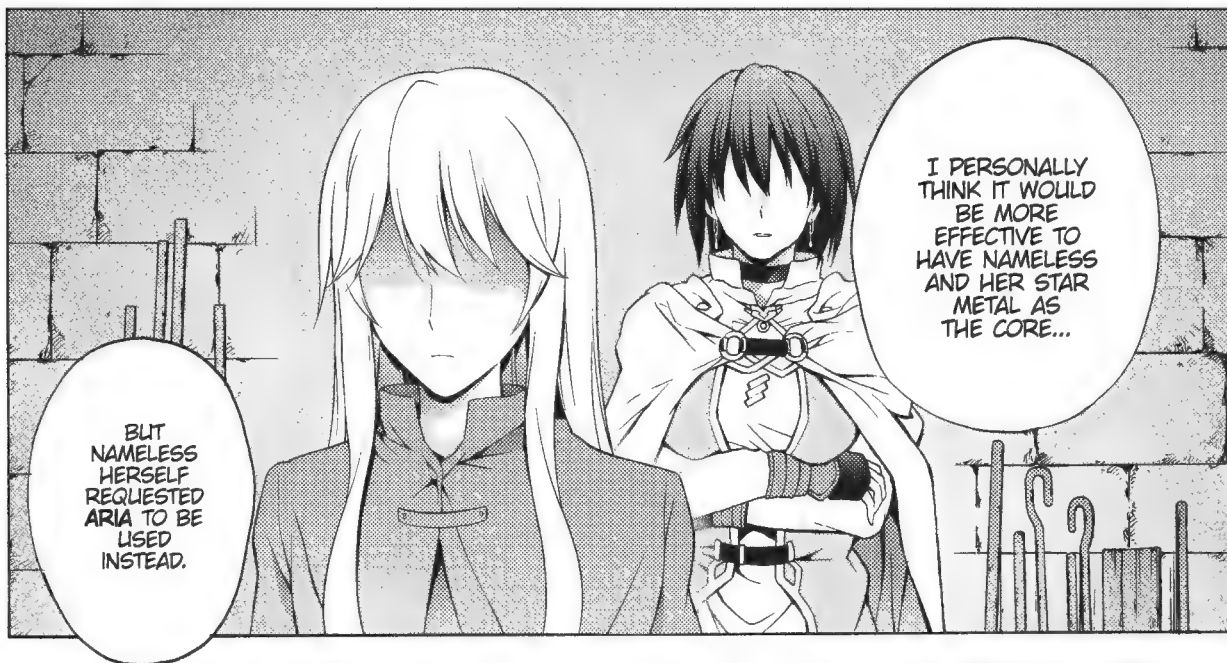
NAMELESS WILL
BE THE EDGE
STEEL. ARIA, THE
CORE STEEL.
THE RIDGE AND
SKILL STEELS
WILL BE
REGULAR
JEWEL STEEL.

IN OTHER
WORDS, THIS
BLADE WILL BE
FORGED USING
THE SHIHOU-
ZUME METHOD,
WITH ARIA AS
ITS "HEART."

OUR
PROCESS
WON'T
CHANGE.

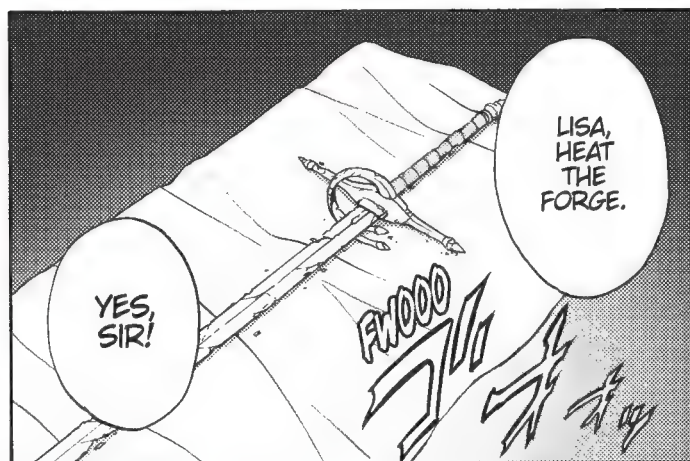
THE ONLY
THING THAT
WILL BE
DIFFERENT
ARE THE
MATERIALS--
ARIA AND
NAMELESS.





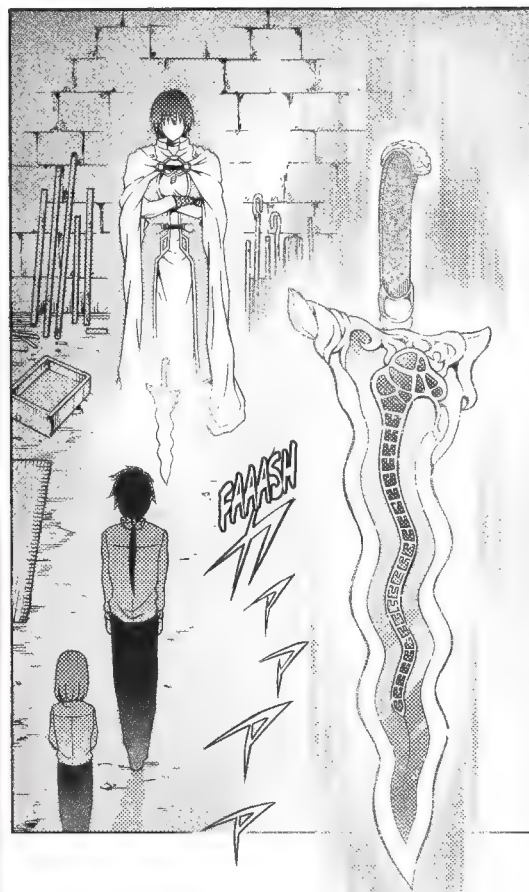
BUT
NAMELESS
HERSELF
REQUESTED
ARIA TO BE
USED
INSTEAD.

I PERSONALLY
THINK IT WOULD
BE MORE
EFFECTIVE TO
HAVE NAMELESS
AND HER STAR
METAL AS
THE CORE...



LISA,
HEAT
THE
FORGE.

YES,
SIR!



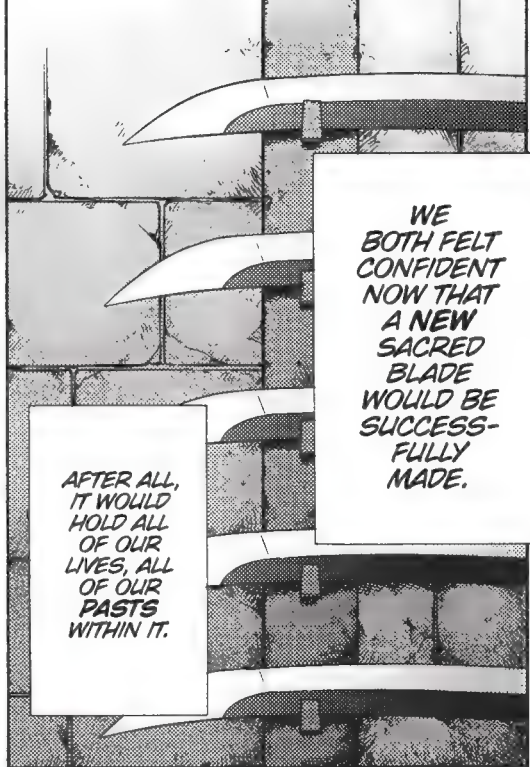
LISA AND I
WERE NOW
GOING TO
FORGE THE
SACRED
BLADE.

THERE
WAS NO
SENSE OF
ANXIETY.



MY
FATHER'S
TEACH-
INGS.

LIZA'S
WISH.



WE
BOTH FELT
CONFIDENT
NOW THAT
A NEW
SACRED
BLADE
WOULD BE
SUCCESS-
FULLY
MADE.

AFTER ALL,
IT WOULD
HOLD ALL
OF OUR
LIVES, ALL
OF OUR
PASTS
WITHIN IT.

LISA'S AND
MY DETERMI-
NATION TO
KEEP ON
SMITHING,
EVEN IF THE
TWO OF US
HAVE TO WORK
TOGETHER TO
MAKE ONE
"WHOLE"
SMITH.

MY GRIEF
OVER THE
LOSS OF
BOTH, AND
MY DESIRE
FOR
REVENGE
ON
VALBANILL
FOR IT.



MY RESOLVE
TO LITERALLY
GIVE MY LIFE
TO FORTIFY
THE SEAL ON
VALBANILL
AND PREVENT
ITS
AWAKENING.

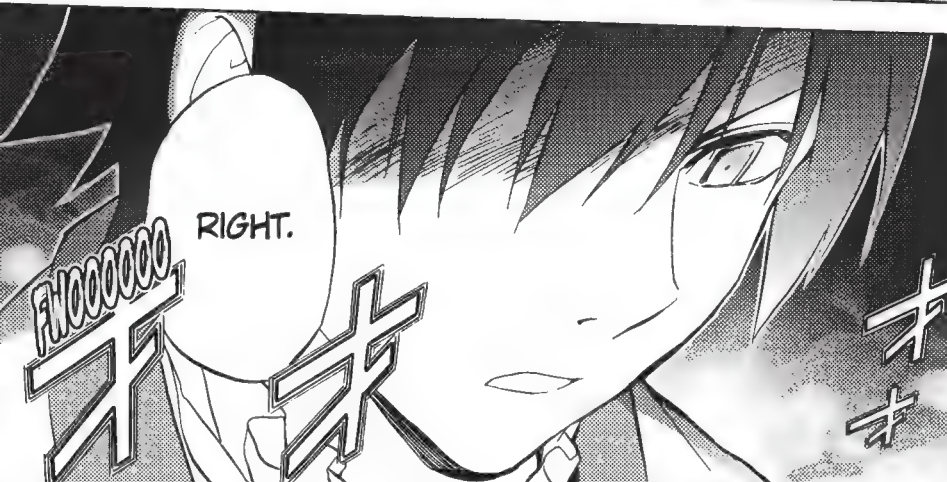


MY
VOW TO
CECILY.

THE
BATTLES WE
FOUGHT AND
BARELY WON
AGAINST THE
INHUMAN
WEAPONS.

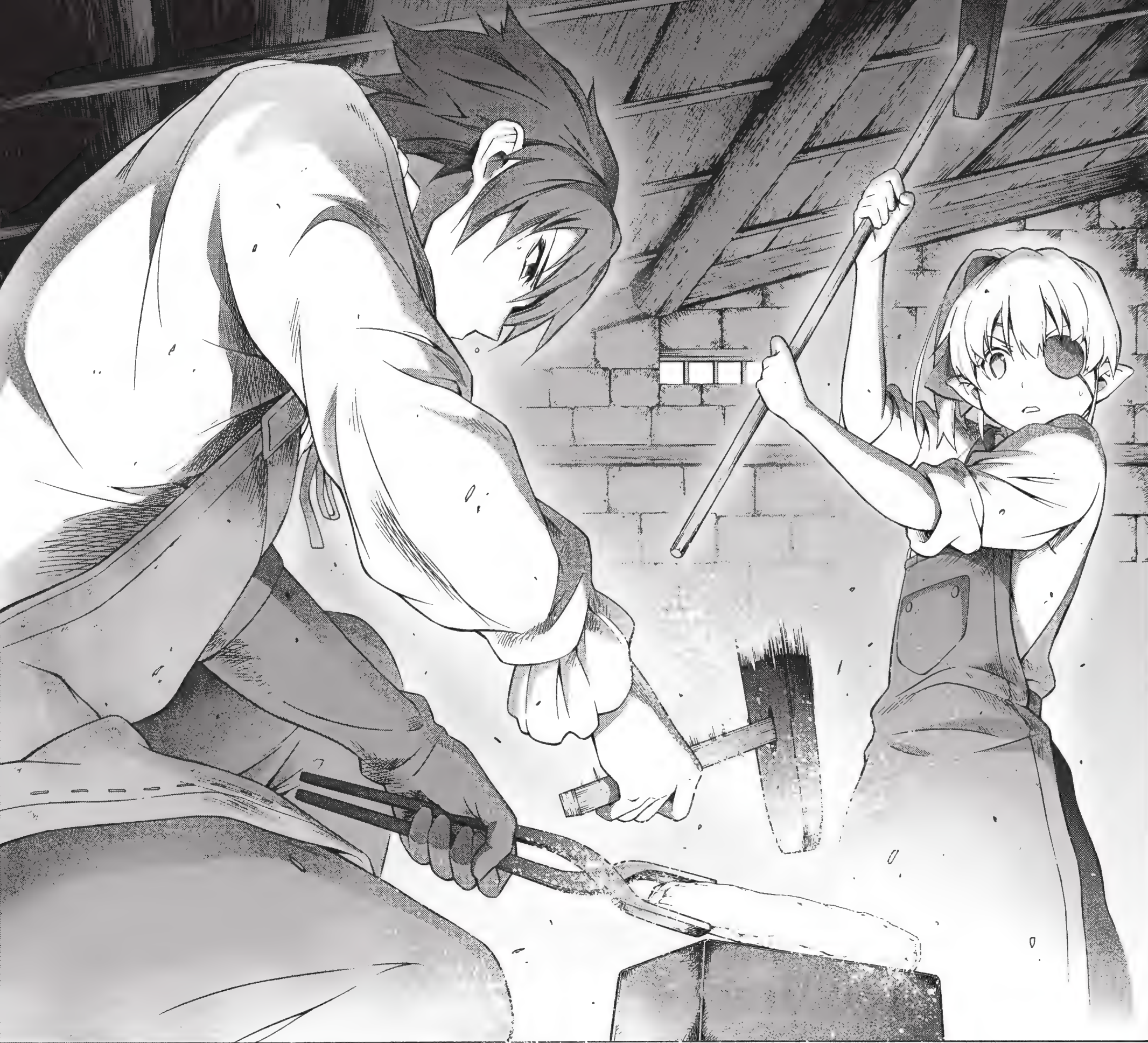
THE NEAR
DISASTER
OF BEING
TRAPPED
UNDER
BLAIR
VOLCANO.

THE TECH-
NIQUES WE
LEARNED
FROM THE
MILITANT
NATION'S
BLACK-
SMITHS.



RIGHT.

ALL
OF THOSE
EXPERI-
ENCES WILL
BE A PART
OF THE
BLADE I
CREATE.



BEGIN
FORGING.

KLAAANG
✦
✦



TIME
PASSED...

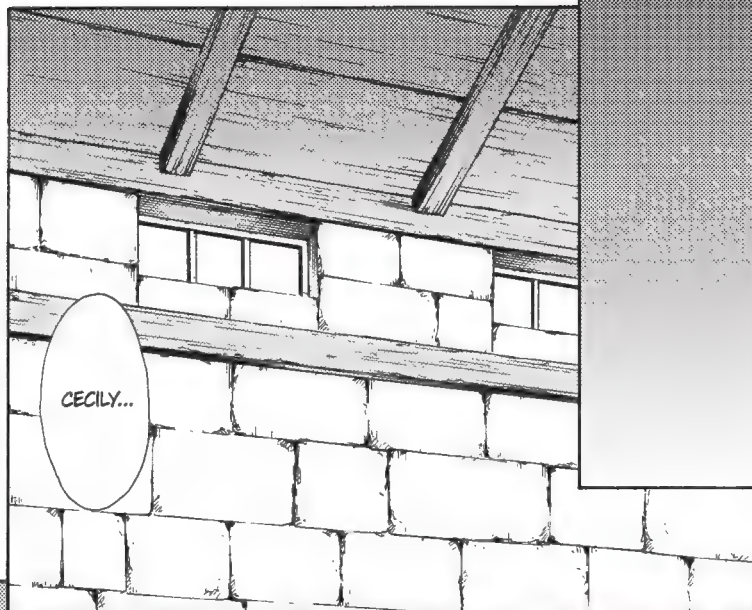
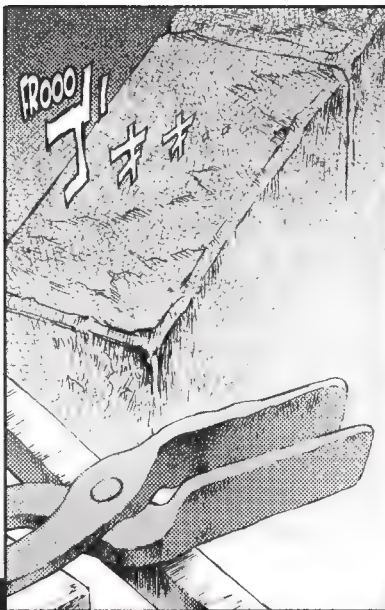
AND THE DAY
THAT WOULD
CHANGE THE
HISTORY OF
THE CONTINENT
GREW EVER
CLOSER.

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



Chapter

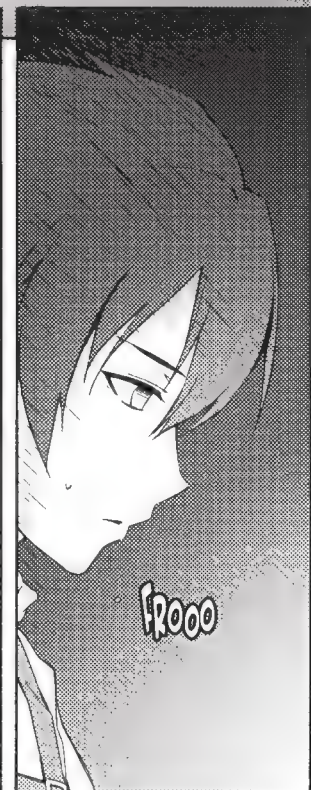
51

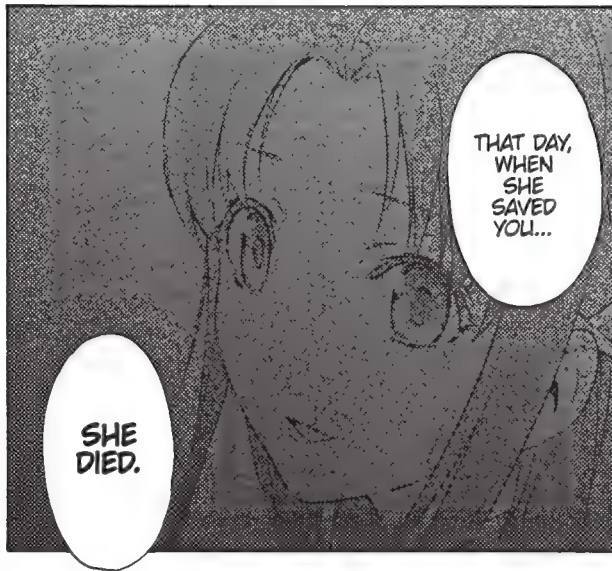
Sacred Blade

(Part 5)



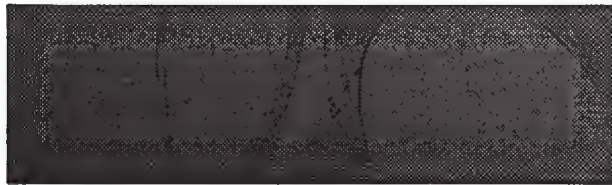
EVEN
REFORGED,
I DOUBT
THE ARIA
WE KNEW
WILL BE
REBORN.





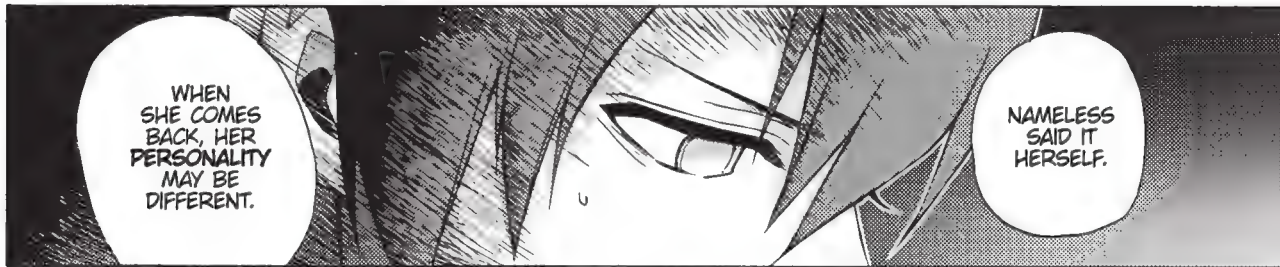
SHE
DIED.

THAT DAY,
WHEN
SHE
SAVED
YOU...



AFTER
ALL,
DEMON
BLADE
ARIA...

HAS BEEN
SHATTERED
TO BITS.



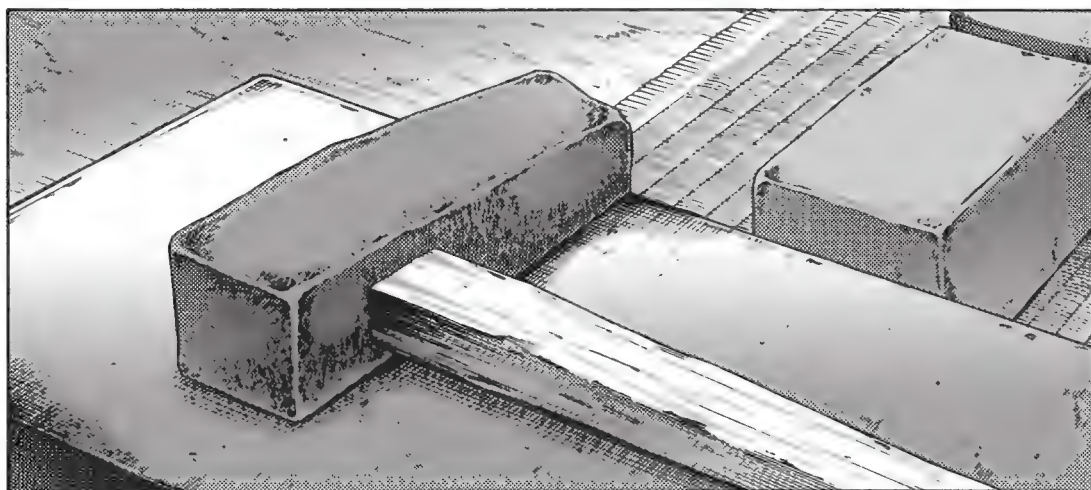
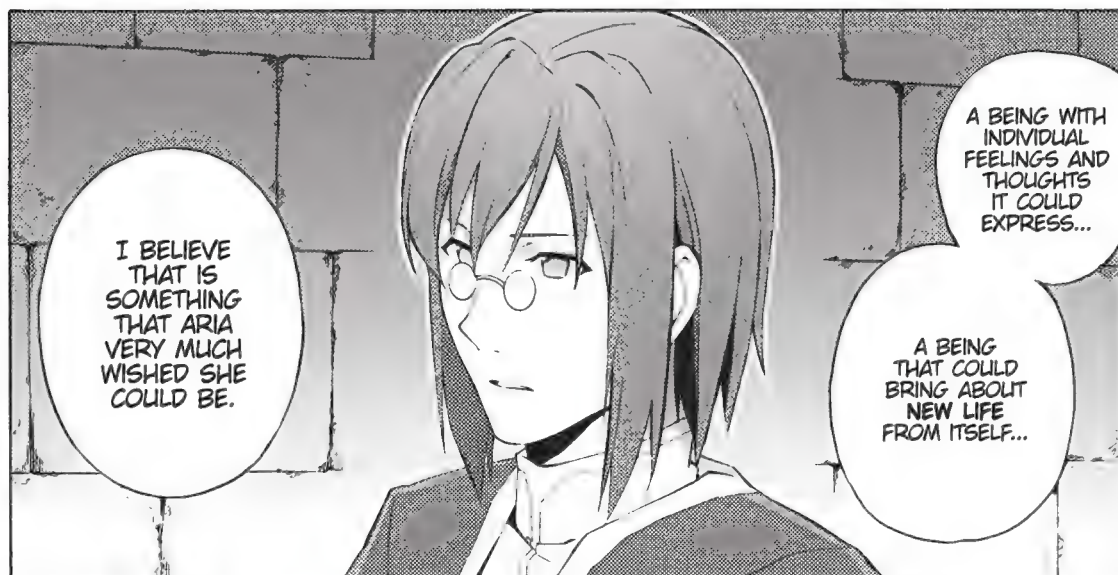
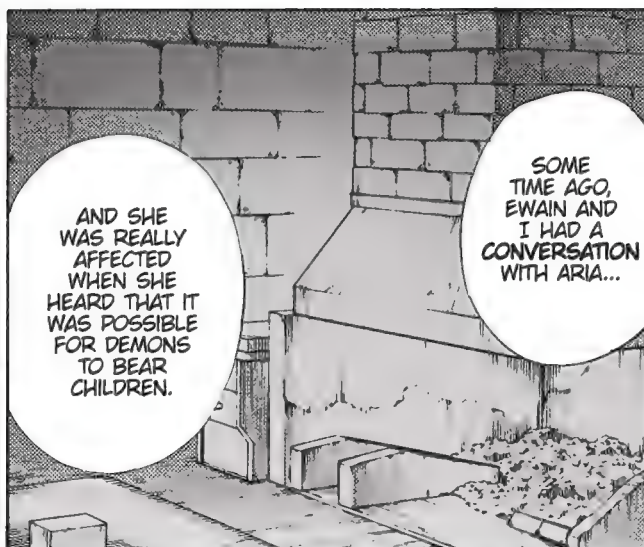
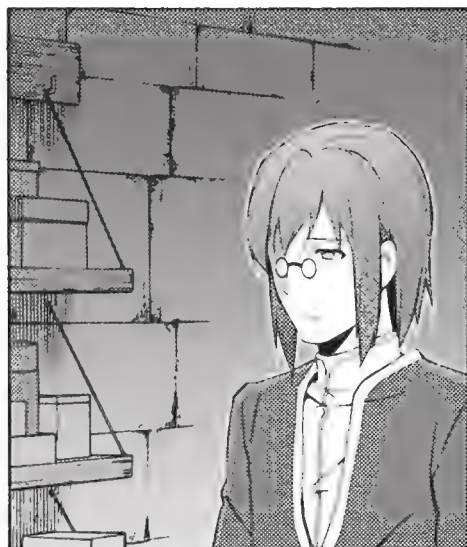
WHEN
SHE COMES
BACK, HER
PERSONALITY
MAY BE
DIFFERENT.

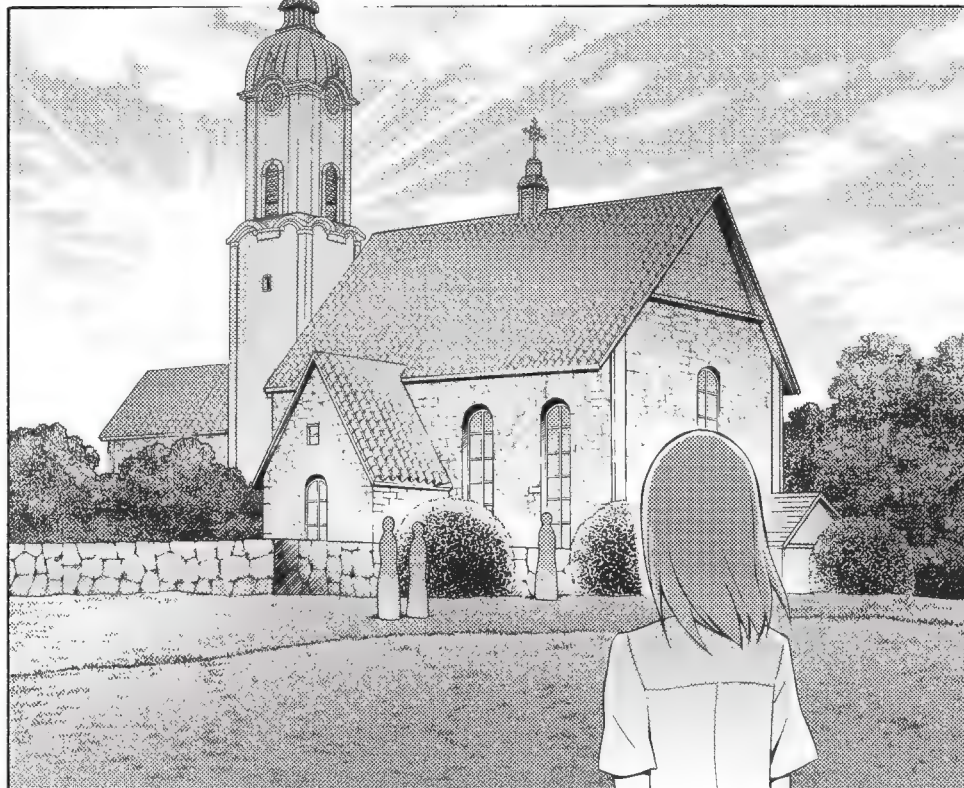
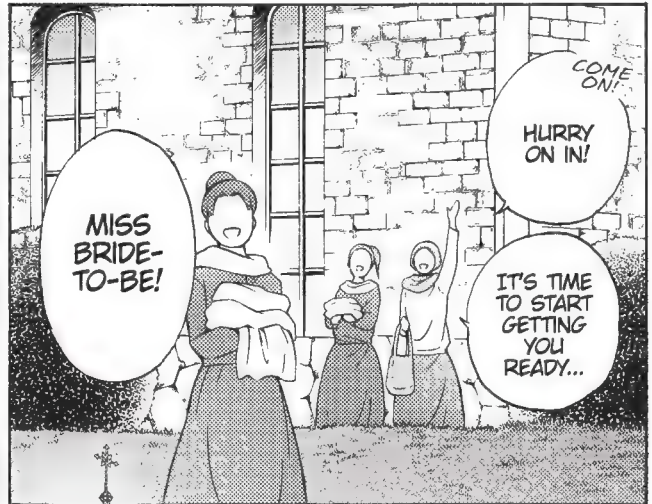
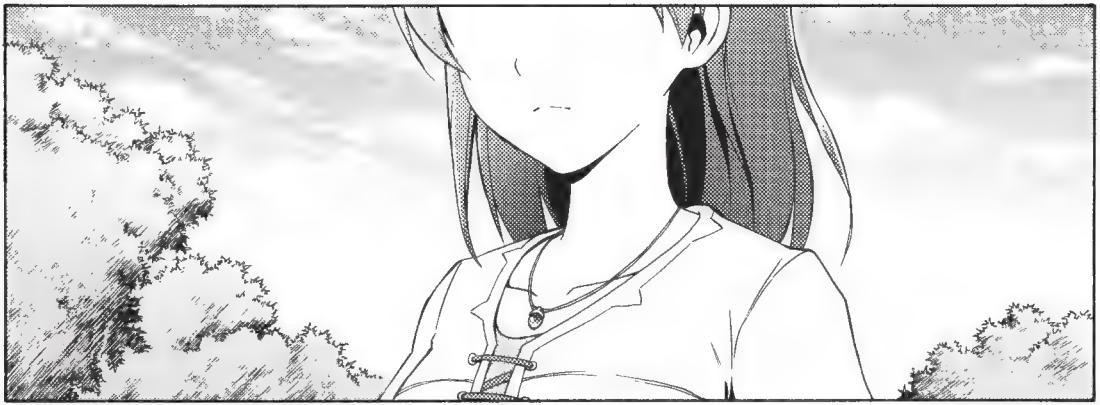
NAMELESS
SAID IT
HERSELF.



ALL WE
CAN DO
NOW...

IS TO FORGE
A BLADE--
A SACRED
BLADE--THAT
CONTAINS
HER SPIRIT.





ON A WIDE,
EMPTY PLAIN
NOT FAR
FROM THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY...

UNDER
A CLEAR
BLUE
SKY...

IN THE MIDDLE
OF THAT TENSE
ATMOSPHERE,
WHAT MAY
BECOME THE
CONTINENT'S
LAST VALBANILL
MEETING IS SET
TO CONVENE.

TWO ARMIES
SIT STARING
AT EACH
OTHER, THEIR
MASSIVE
ENCAMPMENTS
COVERING WIDE
SWATHS OF
THE BARREN
PRAIRIE.



THE INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY

INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY MAYOR
**HUGO
HOUSMAN**

THIRD DISTRICT
KNIGHT CORPS
CAPTAIN
**HANNIBAL
QUASAR**



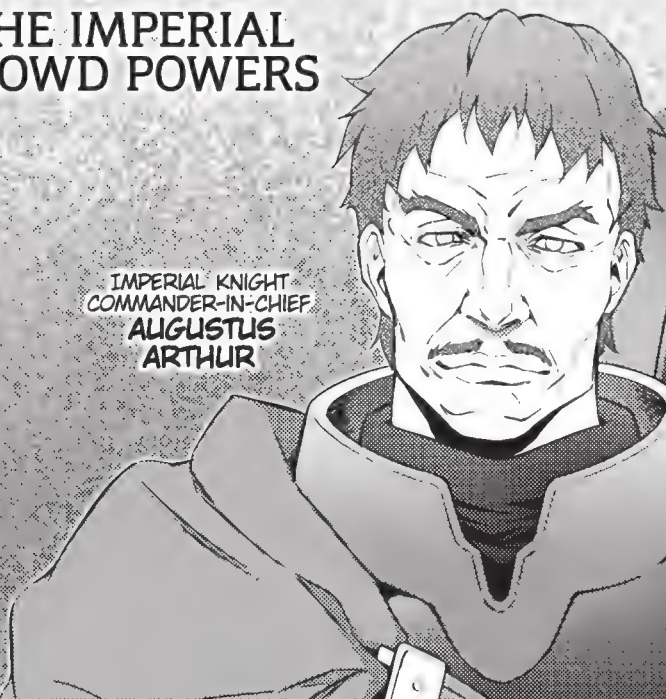
MILITANT NATION
QUEEN
**ZENOBIQ.
LANCHESTER**

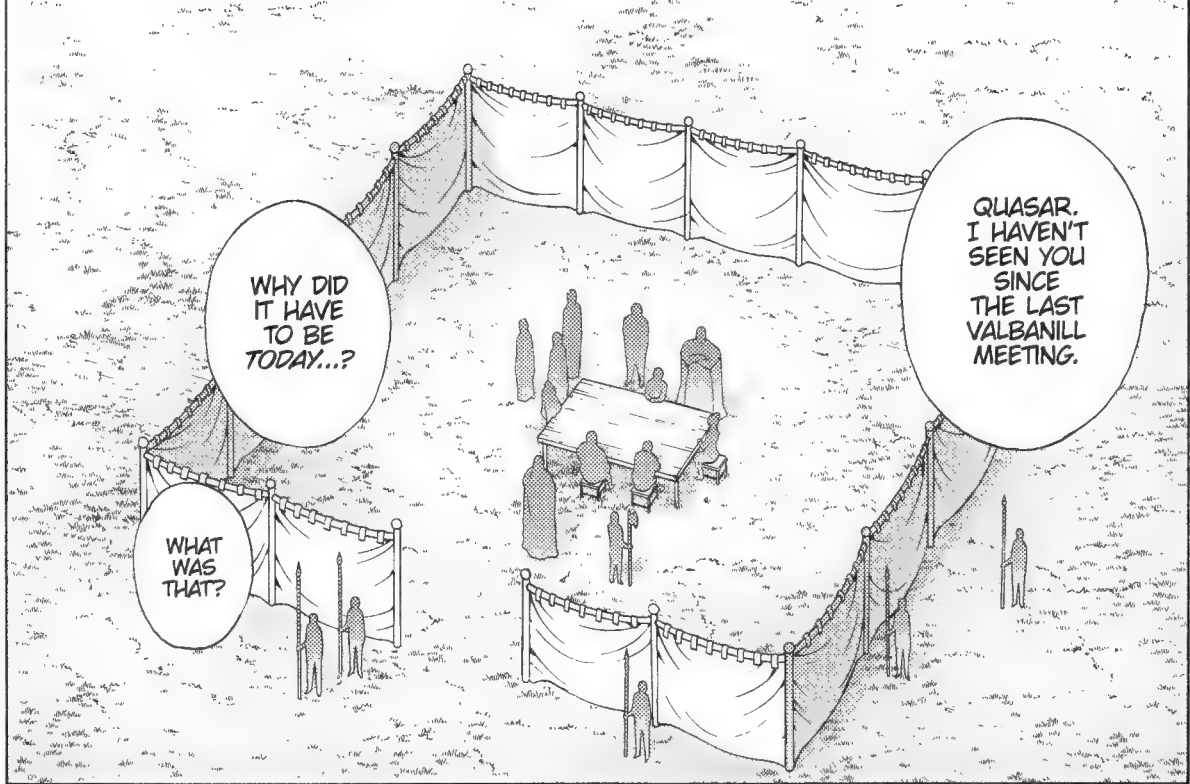
THE MILITANT NATION

THE IMPERIAL CROWD POWERS

IMPERIAL KNIGHT
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
**AUGUSTUS
ARTHUR**

IMPERIAL KNIGHT
CAPTAIN
SIEGFRIED





WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE TODAY...?

QUASAR. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE LAST VALBANILL MEETING.

WHAT WAS THAT?



LET US HURRY AND FINISH THIS UP, SO THAT WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE THE RECEPTION.

EASY NOW, HANNIBAL. I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT WE NEED TO KEEP OUR COMPOSURE.

HOW DARE YOU!

OF ALL THE DAYS OF THE YEAR, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PICK THE ONE DAY MY FAVORITE SUBORDINATE IS GETTING MARRIED?

I SAID, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PICK TODAY?



HMP? INDULGING IN SOME PEACEFUL HUM-DRUM DRIVEL, DESPITE THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE?

OR HAS THE ABSOLUTE HOPELESSNESS OF YOUR SITUATION DRIVEN YOU INSANE?

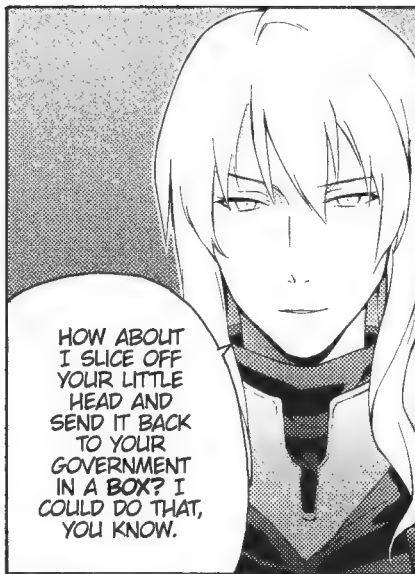


I AM IN AN ESPECIALLY BAD MOOD NOW!

I KNOW. IT'S JUST... DAMMIT!

WHAT THE HELL HAS GOTTEN INTO THEM...?

FORMER CROWD POWERS REPRESENTATIVE
LANCLOT DOUGLAS



HOW ABOUT
I SLICE OFF
YOUR LITTLE
HEAD AND
SEND IT BACK
TO YOUR
GOVERNMENT
IN A BOX? I
COULD DO THAT,
YOU KNOW.

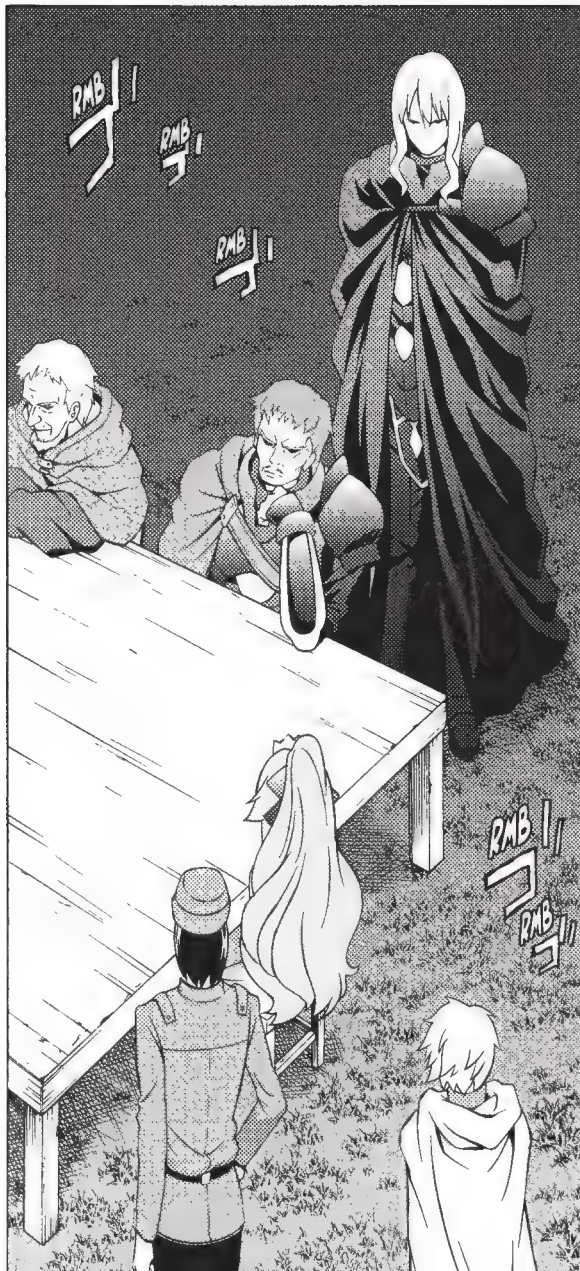


REALLY.



HOPELESS?
OUR
CAUSE IS
QUITE FULL
OF HOPE,
ACTUALLY.

IN FACT,
WE HAVE
BEEN QUITE
WORRIED FOR
YOUR SITUATION.
ALL THESE
SUDDEN, EXTREME
ACTIONS OF
YOURS ARE
THREATENING
TO DESTABILIZE
YOUR ENTIRE
NATION.



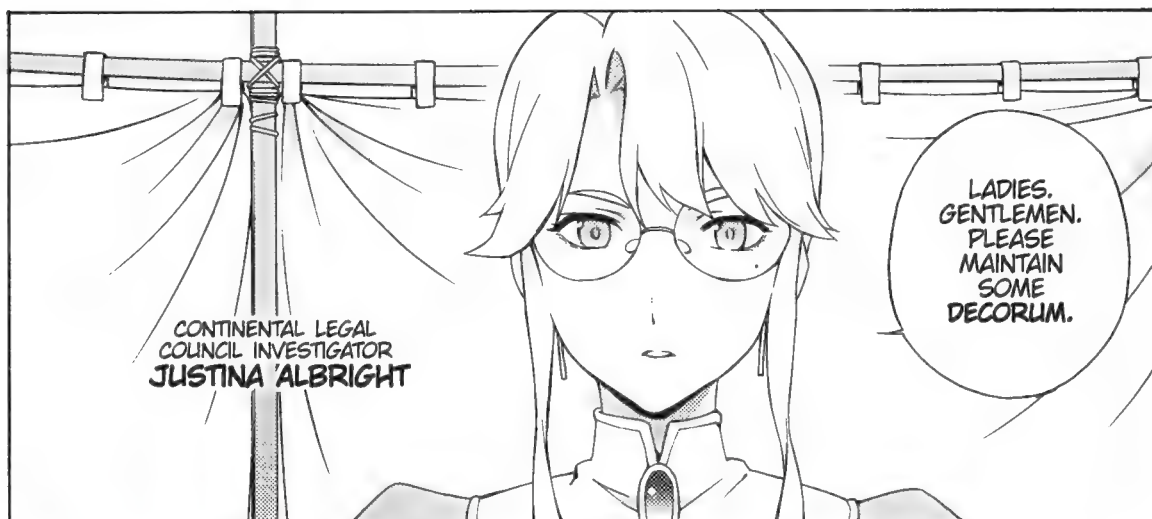
MY, MY.
YOU HAVE
CERTAINLY
SET A
BLUSTERY
TONE TODAY,
SIEGFRIED...

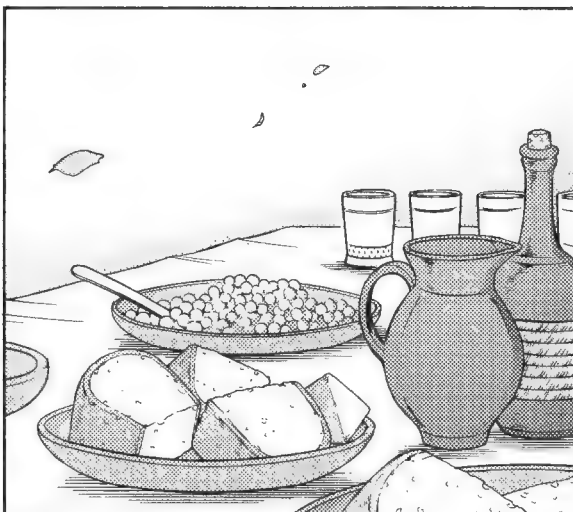
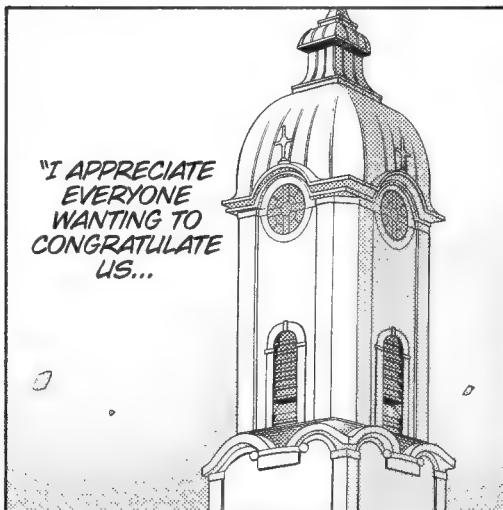
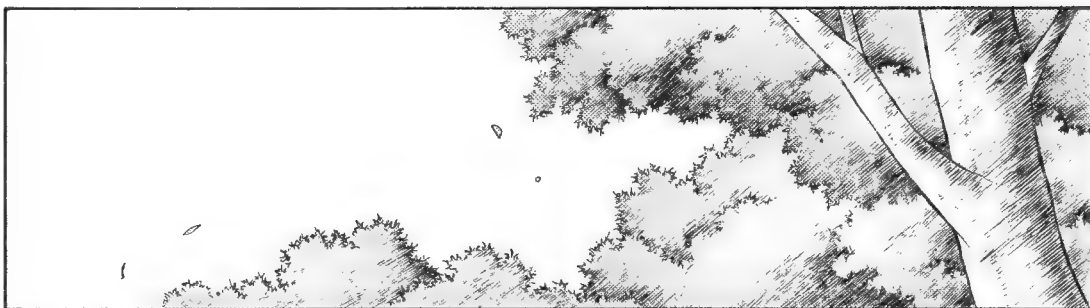
YES.



ARE YOU
SO CERTAIN
A SIMILAR
FATE COULD
NOT BE
TURNED
BACK ON
YOU?

HMM?







THERE.
DONE!

YOU
LOOK
LOVELY,
DEAR!

ER,
THANKS.

SEEING HER
WORKING
SO HARD
EVENTUALLY
CAUSED CECILY
TO CAVE AND
GIVE IN TO
HAVING A
CEREMONY.

FIO STILL
PERSISTED IN
SEWING A
WEDDING GOWN,
WORKING ON IT
STITCH BY
STITCH WELL
INTO THE NIGHT,
EVERY NIGHT.

EVEN NOW,
WHEN MOST
OF THE CITY
HAD BEEN
EVACUATED...



I DID A
DAMN
FINE JOB
ON THAT.
IF I DO
SAY SO
MYSELF!

SO
YOU
LIKE IT,
EH?

TOLD YA A
CEREMONY
WAS A
GOOD IDEA!

HEH
HEH
HEH!

I'M STILL
NOT SURE
THIS ISN'T
ALL A
DREAM...



YES...

I ALMOST
DON'T
WANT TO
ADMIT IT,
BUT YOU
WERE
RIGHT.



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

HOLED UP IN
HIS ATELIER,
HE REFUSED
ANY AND ALL
VISITORS.

TWO FULL
WEEKS HAVE
PASSED
SINCE LUKE
REGAINED
HIS SIGHT.

THOSE TWO
HAVE AN
IMPORTANT
DUTY TO
FULFILL.

I
WOULD
RATHER
NOT
DISTURB
THEM...

ARE LUKE
AND LISA
STILL
HERE?

WHOAH!
WHOAH!
NEVER
MIND THAT!
THIS'LL ALL
BE POINT-
LESS IF
THE MAN OF
THE HOUR
DOESN'T
SHOW UP!

AND YOU
WANT HIM
TO SEE
YOU ALL
DOLLED UP,
RIGHT?!

HUH?

WELL,
ERM...

WE ALL
MADE
SURE HE
KNEW
ABOUT
TODAY
WEEKS
AGO!

BESIDES,
I AM MORE
THAN HAPPY
ENOUGH THAT
I GOT TO
SHOW ALL OF
YOU THIS
LOVELY
DRESS FIO
SEWED FOR ME.





Chapter

52

Sacred Blade

(Part 6)



SORRY
I'M
LATE.











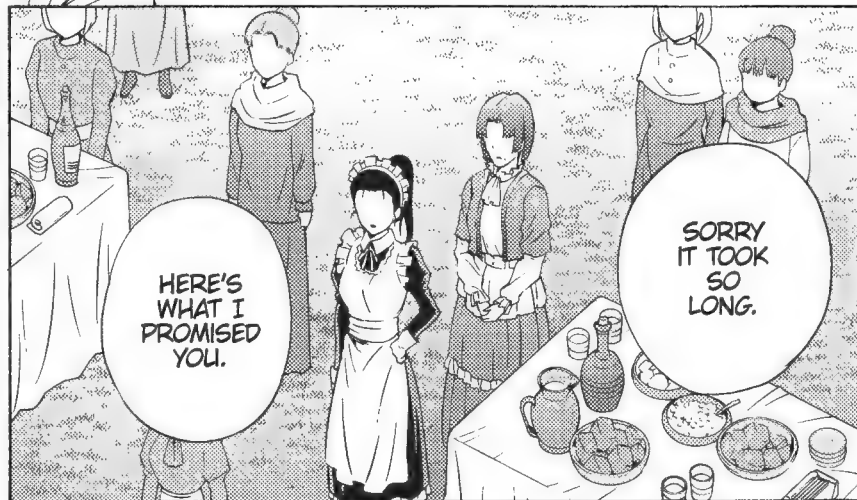
LUKE,
YOU
INSENSITIVE
DOLT!

DON'T YOU
WORRY,
MISS
CECILY! YOU
ARE THE
LOVELIEST
BRIDE ON
THE WHOLE
CONTINENT!

HAVE
SOME
MAN-
NERS!



WHAT
YOU
PROM-
ISED...?



HERE'S
WHAT I
PROMISED
YOU.

SORRY
IT TOOK
SO
LONG.



OH
GODS.
IS
THIS...?





YES.

SHE'S
COMPLETE.

SAY
HELLO TO
YOUR
PARTNER.





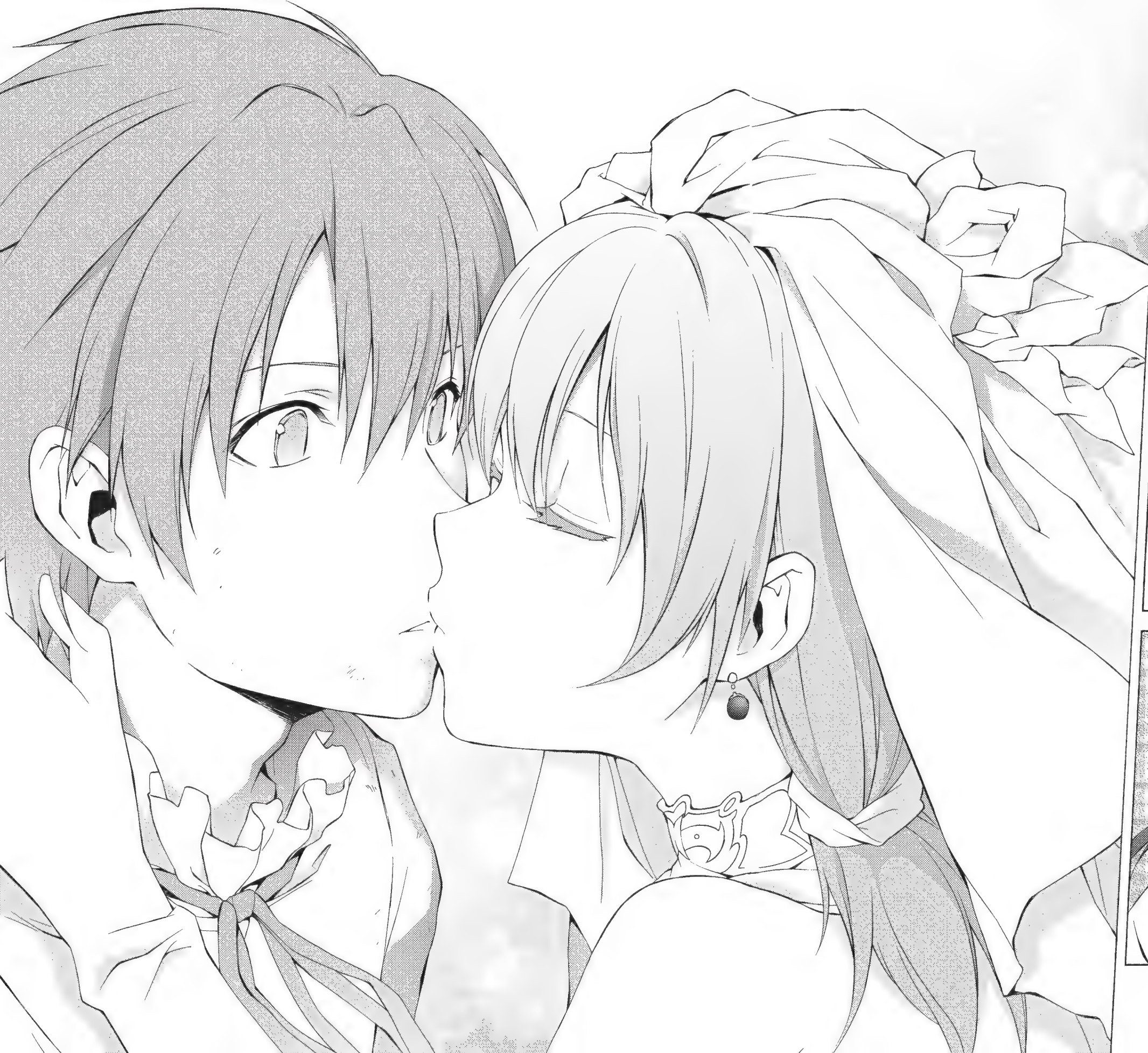
YOU'RE
BEAUTIFUL,
CECILY.

BECAUSE
YOU ARE
ALWAYS
THE BEST
TO ME.



OH
GODS...

I'M SO
HAPPY
RIGHT NOW,
I COULD
DIE.



OKAY...
SO HOW
ABOUT YOU
HURRY AND
GET YOUR
PARTNER TO
TRANSFO--



SMOOCH
ア
ア

SMOOCH
ア
ア

ア



UH...
SURE...

THANK
YOU,
LUKE!



SQUEE!

ER... SORRY.
I COULDN'T
THINK OF
ANY MORE
APPROPRIATE
WAY TO
EXPRESS THE
DEPTH OF MY
GRATITUDE!



THAT'S
RIGHT...



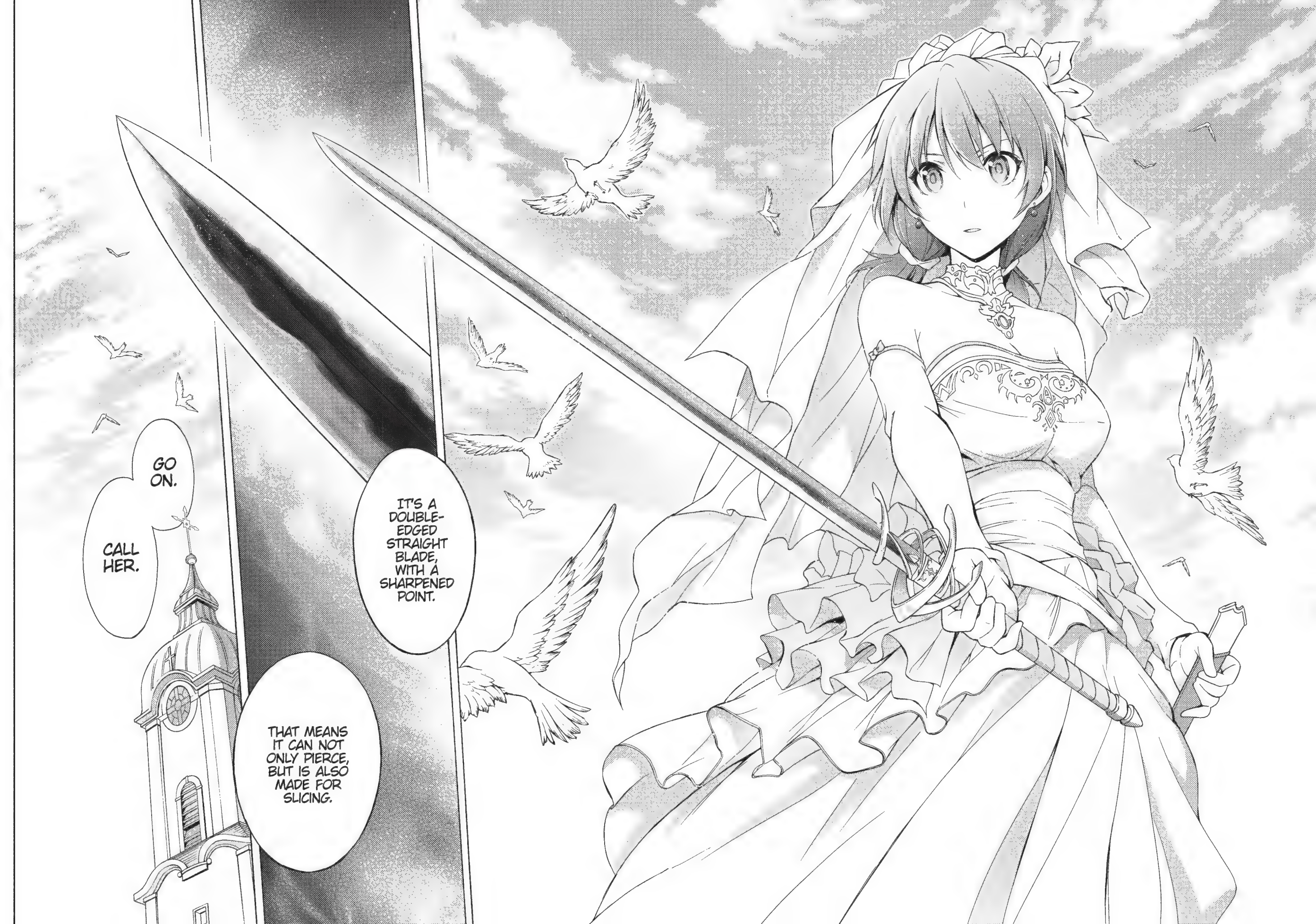
"LUKE
AINSWORTH..."



HE
FINALLY
DID.
THIS IS
IT...!

"WILL YOU
FORGE A
BLADE
FOR ME?"



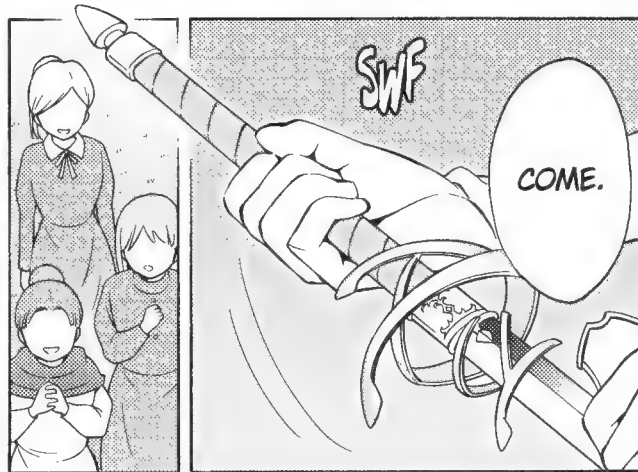
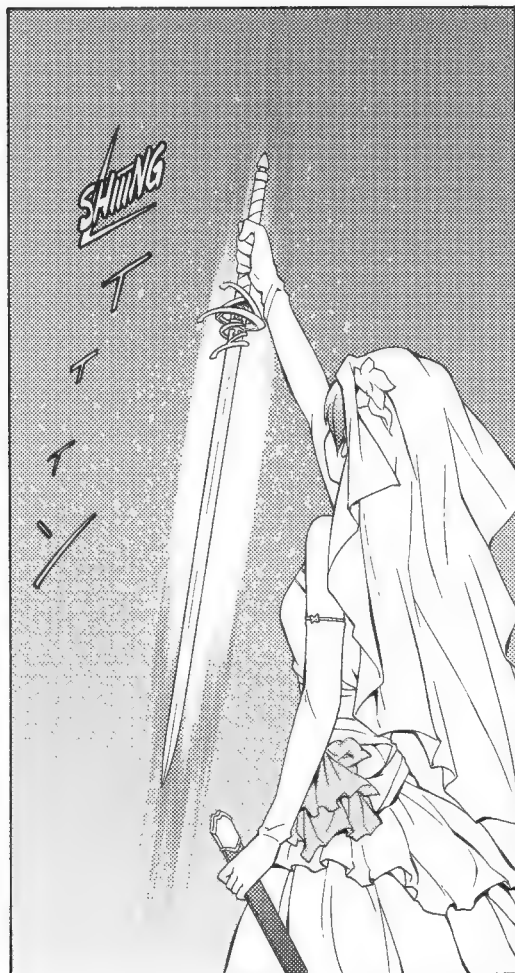


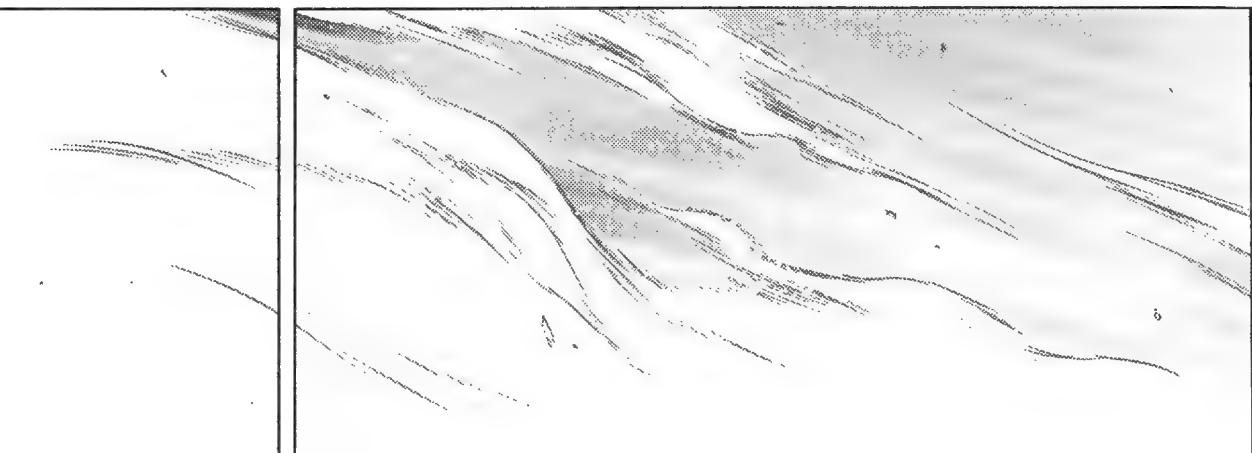
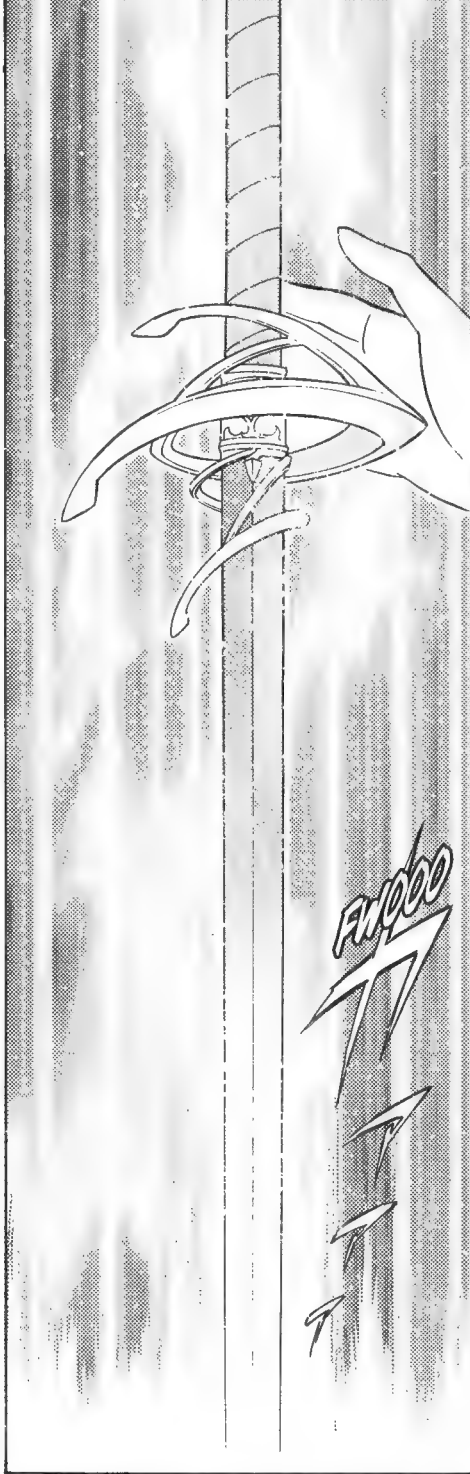
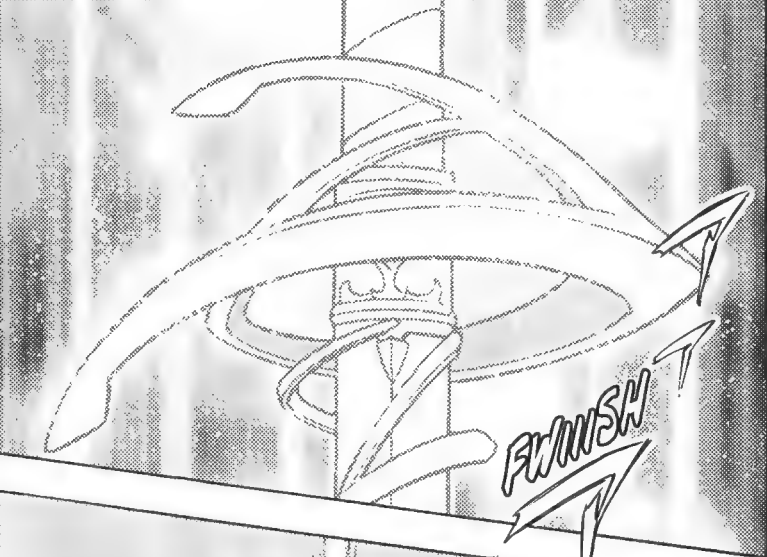
GO
ON.

CALL
HER.

IT'S A
DOUBLE-
EDGED
STRAIGHT
BLADE,
WITH A
SHARPENED
POINT.

THAT MEANS
IT CAN NOT
ONLY PIERCE,
BUT IS ALSO
MADE FOR
SLICING.

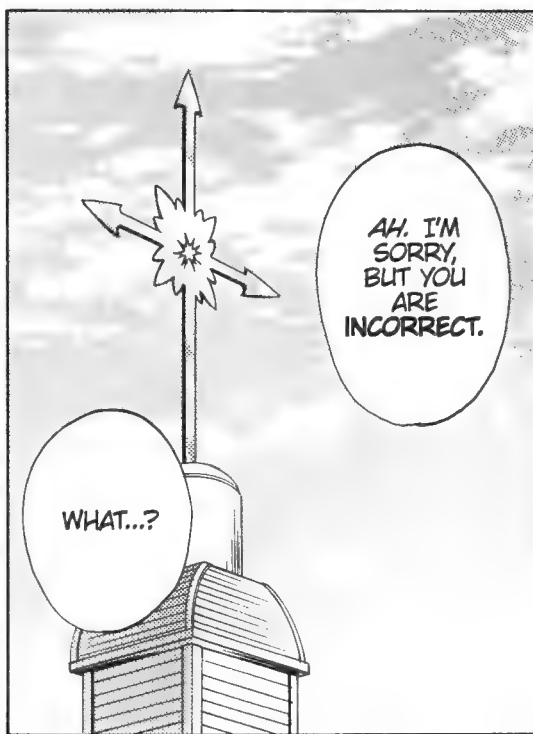
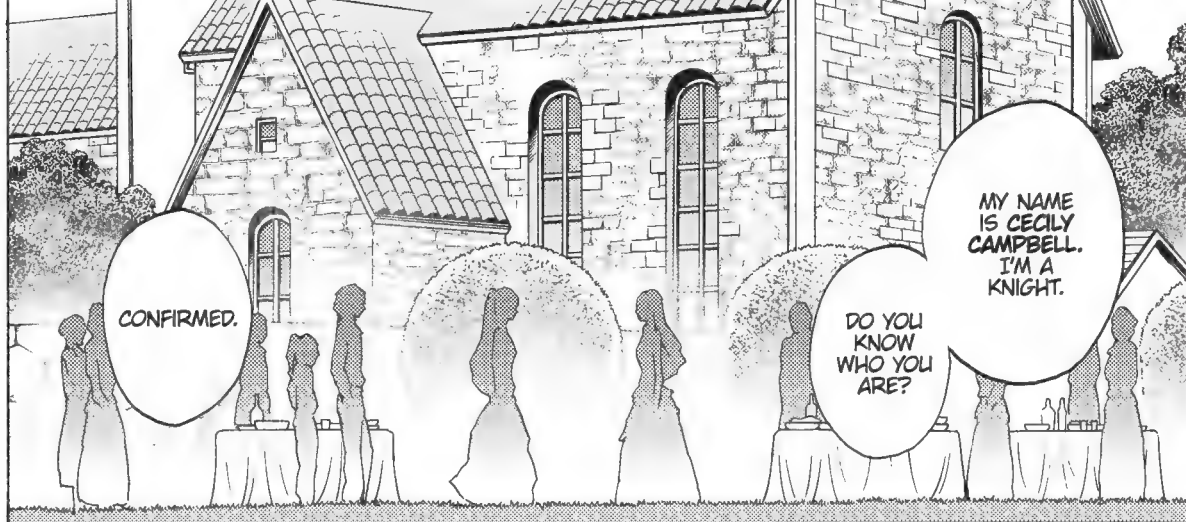


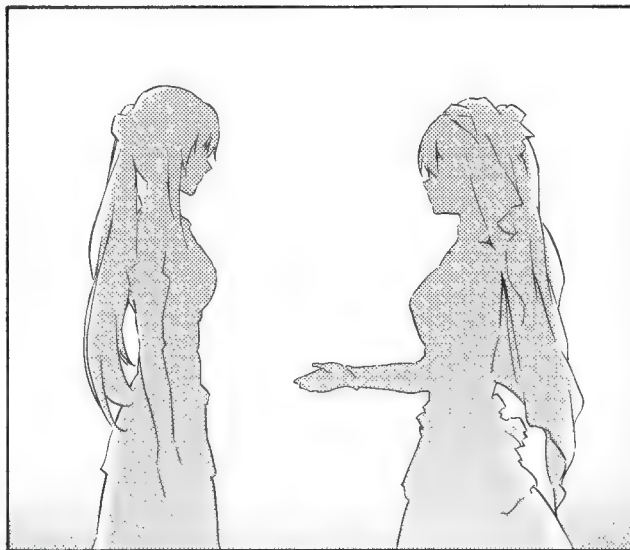
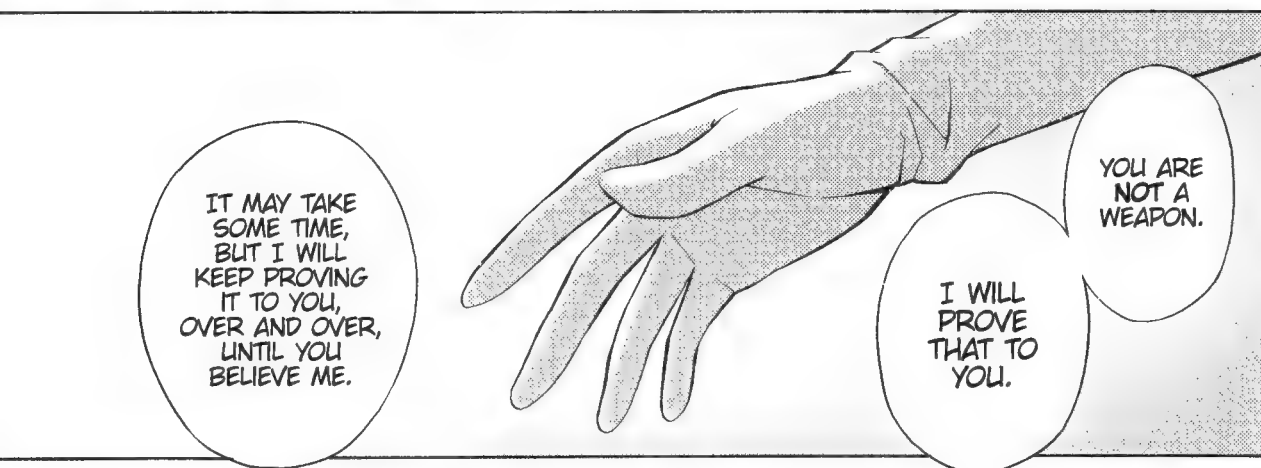


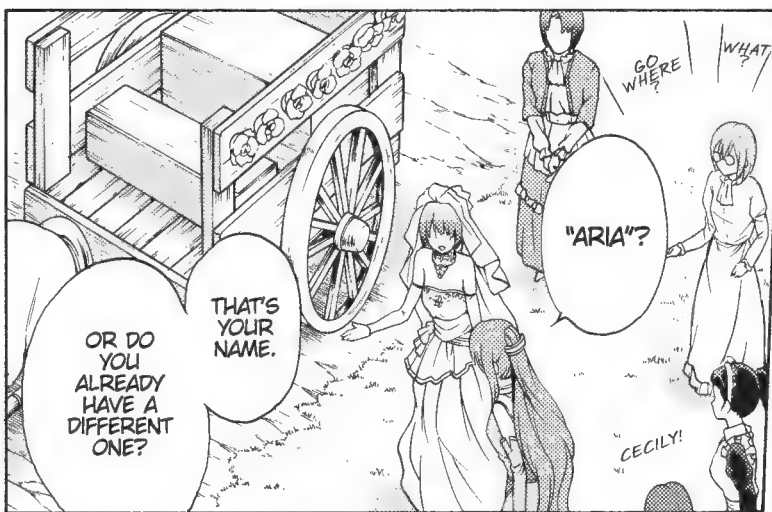
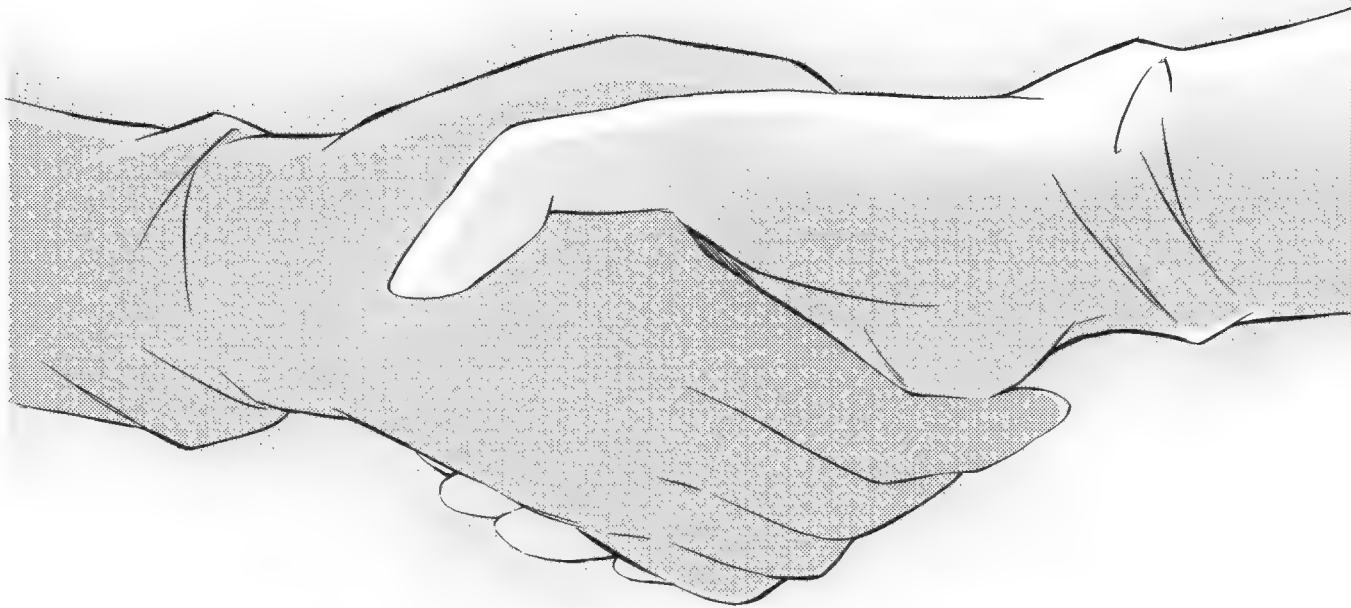


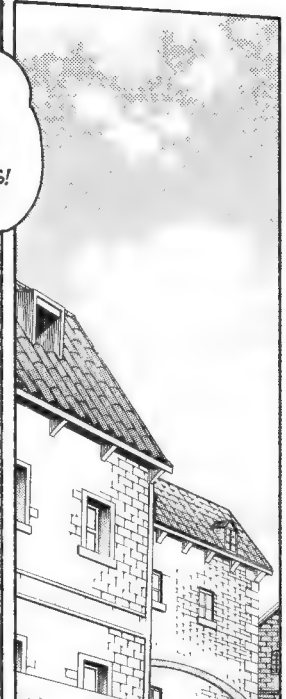
WHERE
AM
I...?











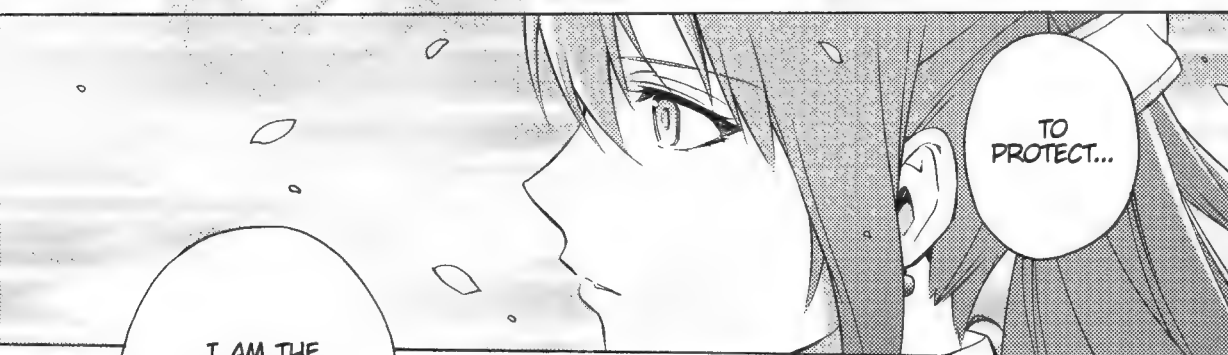




YOU ARE
A SWORD
MEANT TO
PROTECT!

ARIA,
YOU ARE
NOT A
WEAPON.

IF YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN
THAT, WE
WILL JUST
HAVE TO
START OVER
FROM THE
BEGINNING.



TO
PROTECT...

I AM THE
SACRED BLADE.
IF THERE IS
A NEED TO
FIGHT, THEN I
SHALL FIGHT.



"ARIA..."

ALL
RIGHT,
LET ME
SAY IT
OUT LOUD,
THEN.



**BE MY
PARTNER!!**



**AS YOU
WISH.**

**I SWEAR
UPON THE
GLEAM OF
MY BLADE
THAT I
SHALL
BE SO.**

**A SWORD
NEVER
GOES
BACK
ON HER
WORD.**

To be continued...

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

Atelier Lisa **BRANCH OFFICE**

山田先生も、お好き

私の名前は、鈴木七海です。私の将来の夢
それは、漫画家です。
でも、夢はもう一つある



↓ Ibaraki, Nanami Suzuki

山田先生



↑ Ibaraki, Yuuta Nakamura

↑ Hyogo, Ton Ton

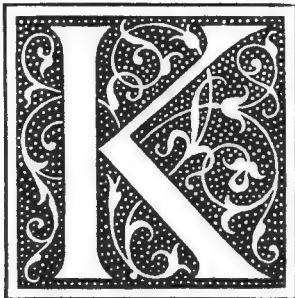


↑ Kanazawa, Hikageno

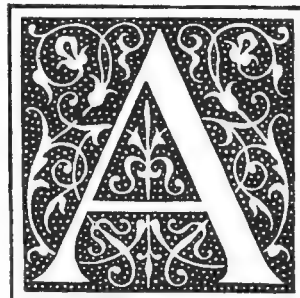


NOTE: Fan art submissions only open to residents in Japan.



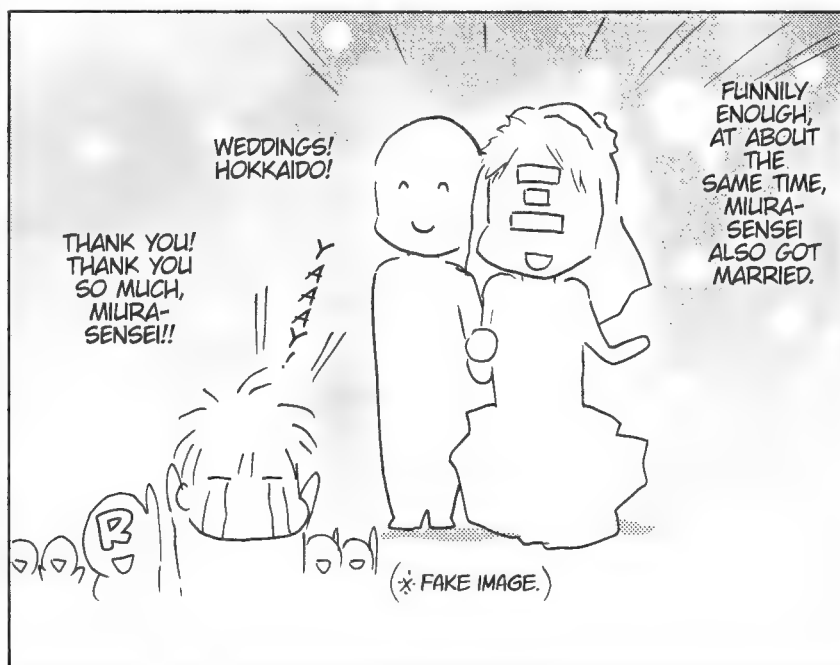
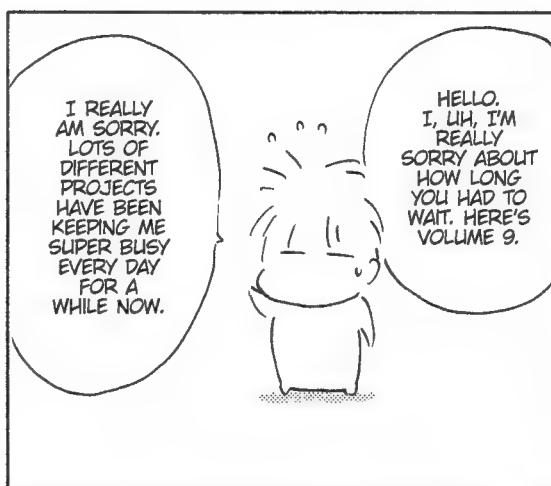
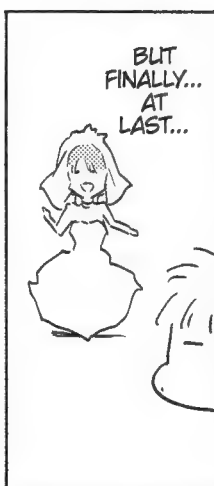


A Lazy Afterword



やまだ
山田さん
YAMADA-SAN

<http://twitter.com/yamadakotaro>
<http://www.yamadakotaro.com>



CHECK
OUT THE
NEXT
VOLUME
FOR THE
GRAND
FINALE!



Magika
**SWORDSMAN
AND SUMMONER**
SPECIAL PREVIEW



MYTH
HAS
BECOME
REALITY.

THE
SCHOOL'S
STRON-
GEST
SUM-
MONER!

WAIT
A MIN-
UTE!

IF
SHE'S THE
STUDENT
COUNCIL
PRESI-
DENT,
THAT
MEANS...

OTONASHI
KAGUYA--
"THE
NIGHT-
MARE
BRINGER"!

SHE'S...



THE
PHENOMENON
KNOWN
AS THE
CANCER
HAS ALSO
BEEN
UNLEASHED.

RIFTS HAVE
OPENED IN
THE FABRIC
OF REALITY,
AND THE
MAGICAL
POWER OF THE
ASTRAL PLANE
OVERFLOWS,
RELEASING
GODS AND
DEMONS...

THE DISCOVERY
OF THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE HAS
TRANSFORMED
OUR WORLD.
ANCIENT
MYTHICAL
BEINGS
NOW WALK
AMONG US.





BUT
DUE TO THE
POSSIBILITY
OF INVASION
BY OTHER
COUNTRIES,
WE MUST
BE VIGILANT
AND EVER
PREPARED
FOR MAGICAL
WARFARE--
-RAGNAROK.

JAPAN WAS
THE FIRST
GREAT
MAGICAL
NATION...

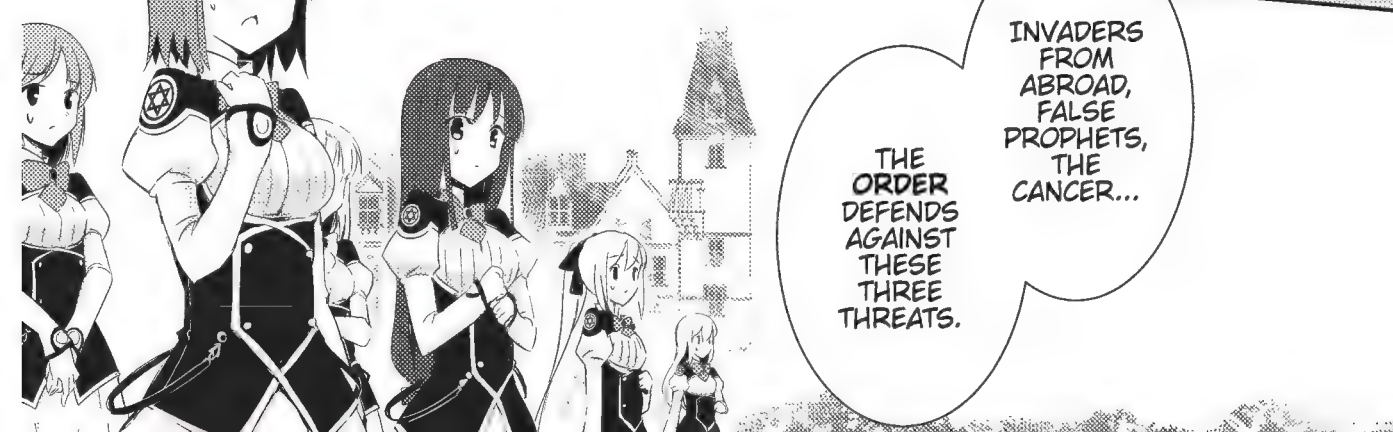
THE SEVEN
GREAT
MAGICAL
NATIONS--
JAPAN, THE
UNITED STATES,
ENGLAND,
GERMANY,
ITALY, RUSSIA,
AND CHINA...

EACH
RECEIVED A
DIFFERENT
MYTHICAL
POWER.



NOT ONLY
DO OTHER
COUNTRIES
ABUSE MAGIC
FOR CRIMINAL
PURPOSES,
BUT HERE
WITHIN
OUR OWN
BORDERS...

THERE IS
ALSO THE
DANGER OF
FALSE
PROPHETS.



INVADERS
FROM
ABROAD,
FALSE
PROPHETS,
THE
CANCER...

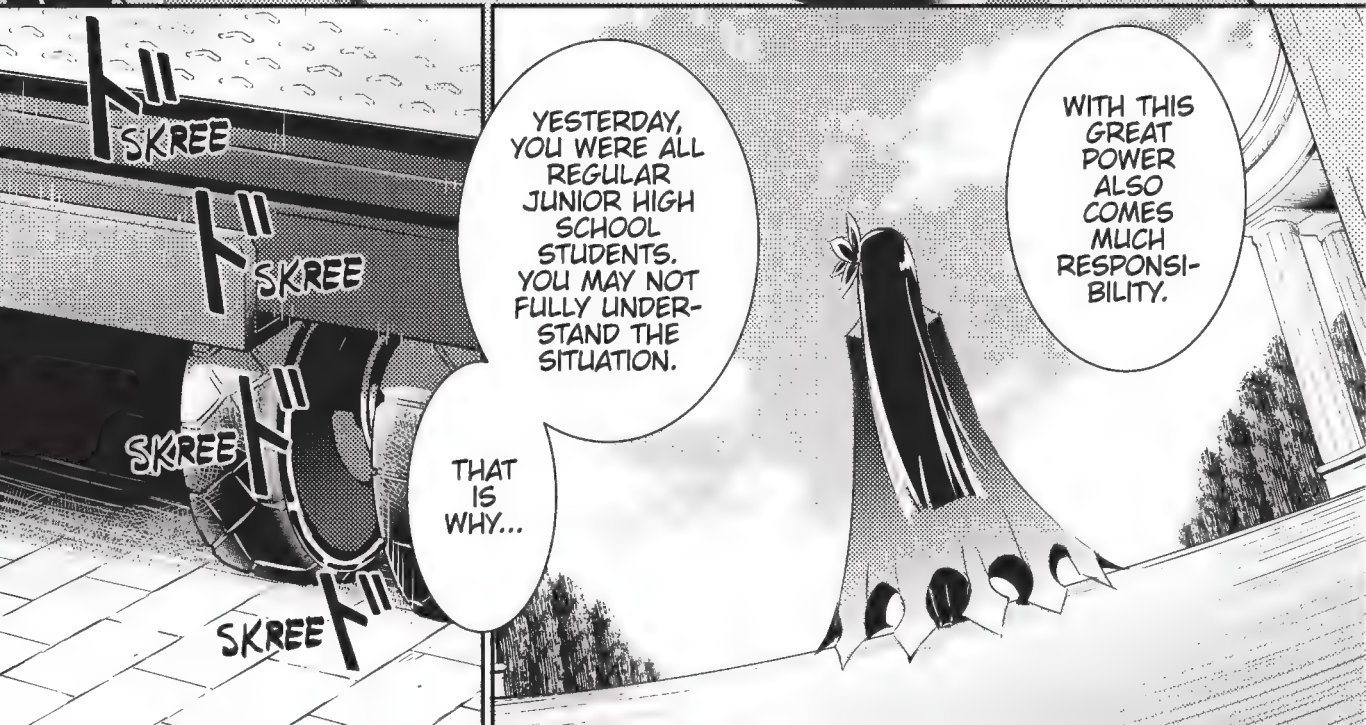
THE
ORDER
DEFENDS
AGAINST
THESE
THREE
THREATS.



YOU WERE
SELECTED
BY THE
72 PILLARS OF
SOLOMON
TO BE THE
HEROES OF THIS
NEW WORLD,
TRAINEES
UPHOLDING
THE HONOR OF
THE ORDER!

BUT
THERE IS
NOTHING
TO FEAR...

BECAUSE
ALL OF US
HERE
HAVE THE
POWER TO
VANQUISH
THOSE
THREATS!



YESTERDAY,
YOU WERE ALL
REGULAR
JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.
YOU MAY NOT
FULLY UNDER-
STAND THE
SITUATION.

WITH THIS
GREAT
POWER
ALSO
COMES
MUCH
RESPONSI-
BILITY.

THAT
IS
WHY...

SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE



WHAT
THE
HECK
ARE
THEY
DOING?!

Binding stars...
Resume your heavenly
revolution...

GRAAR!

SNAP

RELEASE!

WHA--?!
IT
BROKE
FREE?!

SNAP

Continued in *Magika Swordsman and Summoner Vol. 1!*

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH

art by **KOTARO YAMADA** / story by **ISAO MIURA**

Original Character Designs by **LUNA**

VOLUME 9

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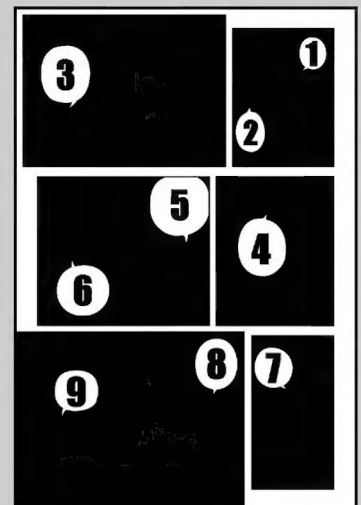
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





A SWORD REBORN

As the Independent City of Housman prepares for the imminent awakening of the inhuman Valbanill, the original Sacred Blade appears at Atelier Liza in her human form, freed from her duty by Luke and Cecily's recent reinforcement of the seal. She reveals to Luke, Cecily and the rest of the group the last key pieces of information that they need in order to create a new blade and reseal Valbanill. While the process would consume the last remains of the Demon Blade Aria, reviving her as the new Sacred Blade, it would condemn her to a lifetime of centuries under Blair Volcano, alone in the darkness.

As Cecily wrestles with this bitter knowledge of what she must do, the people of Housman plan for a very special wedding...



OLDER TEEN (16+)

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